

THE TIMES Christmas

... eve ... begins with a 36-page issue of The Times

JUMBO CROSSWORD

... clues

Sharpen your wits with the Jumbo Crossword

... past Searching for Santa in the Deep South - by Truman Capote

... present Match the personalities to their ideal gifts

... box Four-page pull-out guide to television and radio

... tree A question of yolks and snosas: Christmas in Moscow

... games Previews and fixtures of all the holiday sport

... quiz The Times quiz of 1983

Thatcher moves to silence men behind the IRA

By Philip Webster Political Reporter

The Prime Minister yesterday called for a fresh assessment of the defences available against terrorism, with a special emphasis on stopping republican politicians inciting violence.

The Cabinet spent nearly an hour discussing the repercussions of last Saturday's Harrods bombing, which killed five people and injured 90 others, and agreed that things could not be left as they were.

It paid particular attention to what it regards as the growing menace of incitement to violence by prominent figures in the republican community.

Mr James Prior, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, and the law officers were therefore asked to consider not only further measures of policing and security but also how the common law against incitement to violence could be more effectively applied.

They will report back to the Cabinet early in the new year.

As expected, the Cabinet decided against proscribing Provisional Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, accepting Mr Prior's advice that such a ban could not be effective and would not help the situation in Northern Ireland.

The Government's policy in this respect therefore remains as it was, although it was emphasized afterwards that it will be kept under review.

MPs were last night attaching

significance to the decision to examine how the incitement laws could be better used. It was seen as a clear expression of the strength of the Government's wish to act against the men behind the bombers.

Ministers have become increasingly aware of public office at statements by leading republican politicians about what they see as the legitimate link between the bullet and the ballot box.

In an exclusive article for *The Times*, Dr Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, urges Mrs Thatcher to join forces with Dublin in a commitment to defeat the IRA gunmen and bombers (page 10).

Ministers believe such remarks would almost certainly come under the law on incitement because they amount to encouragement for terrorist acts.

There was little clue in Whitehall last night on what further measures ministers might recommend, although increased deployment of manpower and improvement of intelligence links seemed most likely.

There appears to be little Government enthusiasm for internment of suspected terrorists or the introduction of identity cards, but the ending of official contacts with Sinn Fein is likely to be considered.

In the Commons yesterday, Mrs Thatcher praised the police and expressed sympathy for bereaved families. She said: "We would all like, especially at Christmas time, to place on record our thanks for the bravery and courage of the police, and particularly to remember those families who will not have a loved one with them this Christmas because of the bombing last Saturday."

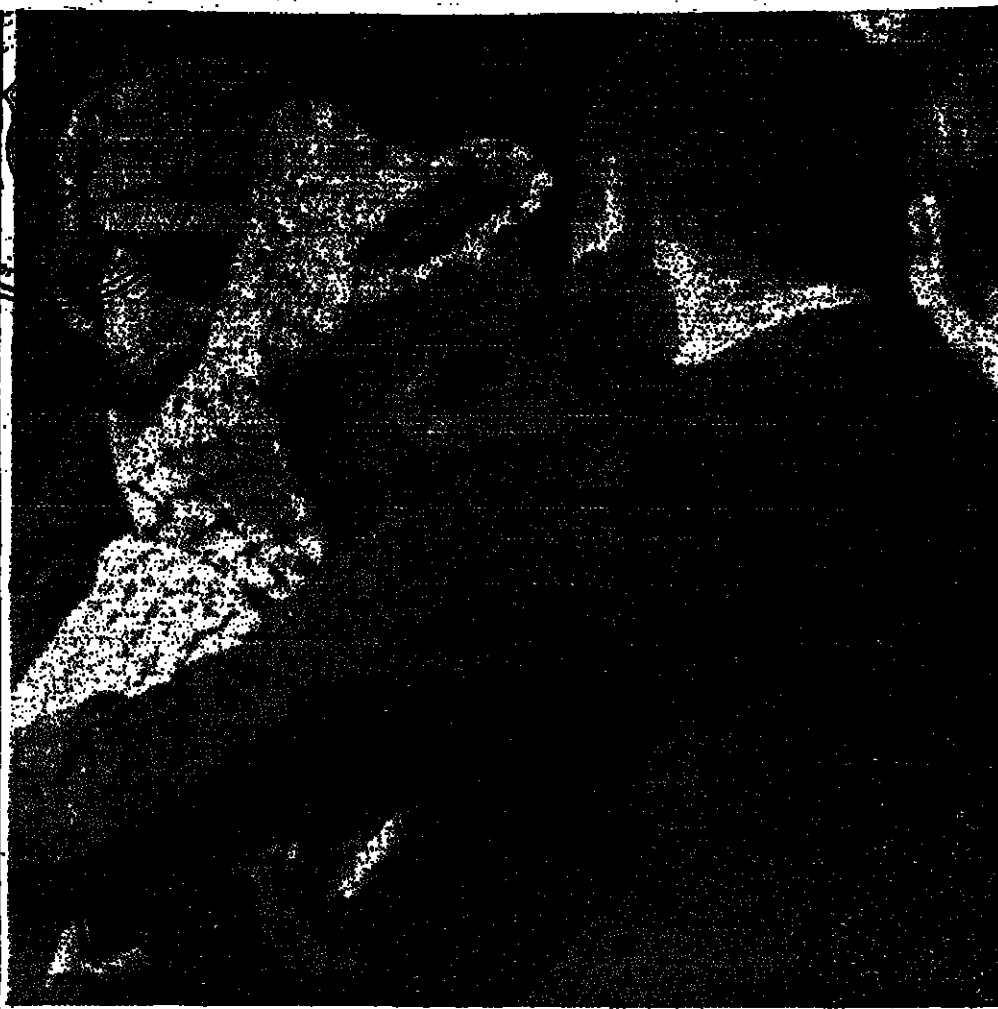
She agreed with a Conservative backbencher who had criticized the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament for staging a demonstration in London on Tuesday, which took policemen away from their street patrols.

The Prime Minister said it would have been a nice gesture if those who had planned demonstrations had cancelled them in favour of fighting terrorism.

A Conservative MP, meanwhile, has asked the Attorney General to refer to the Director of Public Prosecutions the contents of Granada Television's *World in Action* programme last Monday about Mr Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein and MP for Belfast, West.

Mr Robert Adley said in a letter to Sir Michael Havers that the programme contained allegations which, if substantiated, indicated that Mr Adams had broken the law.

Financing terror, page 2



Dramatic reconciliation: Mr Arafat and President Mubarak in Cairo

No police action on Waldorf officers

By Stewart Tendler and Thomson Prentice

The three London detectives involved in the mistaken shooting of Mr Steven Waldorf last January will not face disciplinary charges. The Police Complaints Board, announced yesterday that they accepted a Scotland Yard report recommending no action.

Detective Constable Peter Finch and Detective Constable John Jardine, both aged 38, were acquitted by a jury at the Central Criminal Court in October of attempting to murder Mr Waldorf, a freelance film editor. They have been suspended from duty since January, and are now returning to work.

The third man mentioned in the report, Detective Constable John Deane, was not charged with any criminal offence and returned to duty after a short suspension. All three will be excluded from police firearms duties for the rest of their careers.

In a statement last night the Police Complaints Board said it endorsed a report sent to it by Deputy Commissioner Albert Laughton, who has overall responsibility for discipline matters in the Metropolitan Police. The report had been based on an investigation by the complaints investigation bureau which treated the case as a complaint by Mr Waldorf, although he never officially lodged one.

The board said no charge of abuse of authority, which would cover the use of unnecessary violence by a policeman, could be brought against Mr Jardine and Mr Finch as a result of their acquittal at the Central Criminal Court. Under section 11 of the Police Act 1976, disciplinary charges were precluded if they were in substance the same as those which had led to an acquittal.

Since charges would not be brought against the men who faced trial no disciplinary charge would be brought against the third officer.

It is understood that both the board and Mr Laughton consulted counsel before making their final recommendations.

In a statement last night Scotland Yard said a decision on the future duties of the detectives would be taken in due course, but "they will not be called upon to use firearms again during their careers."

Scotland Yard is still negotiating with Mr Waldorf's legal advisers for compensation. Mr Waldorf, aged 27, was wounded five times by police bullets, and pistol-whipped as he lay injured after he was mistaken for a wanted man.

The statement said the police recognized Mr Waldorf had a claim against them.

At his parents' home last night, Mr Waldorf said: "The outcome is no more or less than I expected, but it can't be right."

Rate Bill attack by Rippon

Mr Geoffrey Rippon, a former Conservative Secretary of State for the Environment, told MPs that the Government's rate capping Bill was deplorable and a classic example of elective dictatorship.

But the measure was defended by Mrs Margaret Thatcher as being overwhelmingly popular among ratepayers.

Parliamentary report, page 4

Trade rebound

Britain's trade figures showed an estimated surplus of £317m last month after a £219m deficit in October as exports had their second best month ever. Page 13

Shipyard vote

Workers at the threatened Scott Lithgow shipyard have supported the call for a national shipbuilding strike over pay. Page 2

This year HE can cook THE TURKEY...

also

Oil price held

BNOC is to hold the price of North Sea oil at \$30 a barrel for four months to the relief of Opec producers. Page 13

Pound saver

The Prime Minister seems to have saved the £1 note for now, after reports of Treasury attempts to spirit it away and leave only the coin. Page 3

Bank strike

Many high street banks face serious disruption this afternoon as some counter clerks walk out in protest at losing their Christmas "early closing" perk. Page 3

Postal peace

Post Office staff at Shepherd's Bush, west London, who have been on strike since December 1, are returning to work today.

England dates

England now know their schedule of qualifying games for the 1986 World Cup finals. Page 17

Leader page, 11 Letters on wages councils, from Mr C. Pond; video fears, from Mr N. March; Hunnings' small businesses from Lord Wilson of Rievaulx

Leading articles: the pound - note of coin? Housing for the elderly. Features, pages 8-10

Dr FitzGerald's appeal for a concerted attack on the IRA; Robert Fisk visits the British peace-keeping HQ in Beirut; 70 years of word-crosses. Friday. Page: a PS from Peter Rabbit; Spectrum; Namibia's insecurity forces.

Obituary, page 12 Lord Pilkington, Raymond Mander

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Harrods bomb hunt police release two men

By Stewart Tendler and Arthur Osman

Two of the four men held by London detectives investigating the Harrods bombing were released yesterday, while other officers questioned a man in Birmingham and another in Manchester.

The man held by police in Manchester has been identified as a Mr Gerry Small. All the men have held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

Scotland Yard detectives arrived in Birmingham last night to interview a student who had been detained at first light in Sparkhill area of the city.

An organization called the Irish Freedom Movement in London, which said: "We support the armed struggle to get Britain out of Northern Ireland", said his name was Alan O'Dwyer and he was in his early twenties.

A member of the movement said Mr O'Dwyer was detained at 6.50am of the house of a friend. At the same time officers raided a house in London where he usually lived.

Mr O'Dwyer was being held at Sutton Coldfield police station. His detention followed a series of early morning raids on homes in the West Midlands.

Scotland Yard said yesterday there had been no change in the conditions of the officers injured by Saturday's Provisional IRA blast, which killed five people.

Harrods announced the formation of the Knightsbridge Fund, for the benefit of victims and their relatives. The fund may be also used for the victims of other terrorist attacks in the United Kingdom.

A spokesman for Harrods said the store and House of Fraser, which owns Harrods, have started the fund with £50,000. Lord Tonypanody, the former Speaker of the Commons, will be chairman of the trustees.

Contributions can be paid into any Barclays bank, to the Knightsbridge Fund. Account number 10556661.

As the Yard investigation continued yesterday, a spokesman

disclosed that the part-time car dealer who sold the Austin 1300 used for the bombing lives in west London.

The description of the buyer has proved so sparse that detectives are very unlikely to issue an arrest warrant for a man who had been held by the West Midlands police since December 15 was served with an exclusion order last night and it was expected he would be flown to Belfast.

Members of the Irish Freedom Movement protested yesterday outside Birmingham's main police station about the detention under the Prevention of Terrorism Act of Martin McAllister, aged 30, of Crossmaglen.

Mr McAllister was detained at Birmingham Airport when he arrived on a flight from Belfast. He said he was in Britain to be parts for his double-glazing business from an outlet in Coventry.

In the mid-1970s he was convicted of possessing arms and being a member of the IRA.

Zimbabwe Air Force officers freed

From Our Correspondent Harare

The last three white Air Force officers detained in connexion with the Zimbabwean warplanes sabotage case were released here yesterday after 16 months' imprisonment.

Wing Commander John Cox, aged 36, Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, aged 31, and Air Lieutenant Neville Weir, aged 24, walked out of the Chikurubi maximum security prison in Harare at 11.30. All three have been given orders of liberation stipulating that they leave the country within seven days.

A family friend of Wing Commander Cox, who was held in Dublin, said the airman intended to remain in Zimbabwe for several days to officially resign from the Air Force.

There is speculation that Wing Commander Cox's medical condition helped to bring forward the release. His wife, Sandy, said last week that he could lose the sight of one eye without laser treatment to stop internal bleeding. The treatment is not available in Zimbabwe.

The acting Minister of Home Affairs, Mr Simbi Mubaka, said the men were being allowed to remain in Zimbabwe temporarily to wind up their affairs. They were released on the recommendation of the country's detention review tribunal, which reviewed their cases two weeks ago.

Egypt heals rift with Arafat

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

A profound change in the political complexion of the Middle East was signalled yesterday by the dramatic reconciliation between Egypt and the Palestine Liberation Organization after an unexpected, two-hour private meeting in Cairo - between President Mubarak and Mr Yasser Arafat.

There was speculation that the rapprochement - the first of its kind since Egypt signed the Camp David treaty with Israel in March, 1979 - could assist in reviving the deadlocked Middle East peace process via renewed negotiations between the PLO and Jordan which could now enjoy Egyptian blessing.

The Reagan Administration is still hopeful of restructuring its 1982 peace initiative, which is why it put strong pressure on Israel to permit the PLO evacuation from the northern Lebanese port of Tripoli to go ahead unhindered. Mr Arafat is

apparently seen by the White House as having a key role to play.

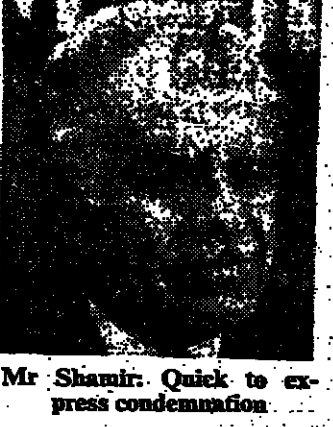
But any hopes that the Cairo talks might herald a lifting of the deep pessimism surrounding peace prospects in the region was countered by bitter criticism by Israel, whose hawkish Prime Minister, Mr Yitzhak Shamir, was quick to express "regret and astonishment" that the historic meeting had taken place.

One immediate result was to plunge Israeli-Egyptian relations to their lowest point since the Camp David treaty was signed. In his incredulous statement, Mr Shamir - one of the original Israeli opponents of the peace treaty - recalled that immediately after the murder of President Sadat, Mr Arafat and his supporters had danced for joy in the streets of Beirut.

Mr Shamir's outspoken attack was quickly followed by Israel's Foreign Ministry which alleged that the Cairo meeting, which had begun with a formal embrace between the two participants, was a "grave blow to the peace process".

The Foreign Ministry added: "There will be no peace or stability in the Middle East until the murderous PLO disappears from the international scene."

The force of Israel's condemnation reflected deep concern here that Mr Arafat has succeeded in extending his political credibility from the military defeat of Tripoli. The reconciliation was, thought



Mr Shamir: Quick to express condemnation

Continued on back page, col 2

Cigarette prices up next month

By Derek Harris

The price of some tobacco is rising again, with 2p added to a pack of 20 cigarettes. Imperial Tobacco, Britain's biggest tobacco manufacturer, made other big makers are expected to follow suit soon.

Imperial is introducing the increases from January 23 with distributors benefiting from the rise as well as the company and the inland Revenue.

There are 2p increases on 25 gramme packs of pipe tobacco and on several packs of small cigars. Larger cigars rise by between 1p to 2p each.

The recommended price of John Player Special King Size rises to £1.13 for 20, while Embassy Number 1 King Size goes up to £1.14. John Player Super Kings rise by 3p to £1.13

British Aerospace may abandon Airbus project

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Sir Austin Pearce, chairman of British Aerospace, said yesterday that he would pull the company out of Airbus Industrie's plans to build a 130-seat airliner if the British Government failed to provide £437m of launch aid.

The aid he said, would be in the form of a deferred interest loan repayable by 1997, and British Aerospace would be contributing £200m to the European consortium from its own resources. It was essential that the Government made an early decision on the remainder. The aircraft, the A320, is due in service by 1988.

He said: "I am not prepared to see this company starved of finance just to get the A320 project going. We are going to protect our other projects in British Aerospace. We have got high technology skills and they need to be maintained."

British Aerospace, has a 20 per cent stake in Airbus Industrie with the French and West Germans as the other chief partners, has been frustrated by government hesitancy over the A320.

Sir Austin and Sir Raymond Lygo, the managing director, believe the delay has been caused by the Treasury's concern over the effect the granting of aid would have on the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement.

The A320 will complete the three-member Airbus family and provide increased competition to Boeing of the US.

It is planned as a super-efficient airliner for the 1990s to replace the world's present fleet of 3,500 noisy and fuel-inefficient medium-range aircraft. Airbus Industrie says emphasis will be placed on market appeal and describes the A320 as the

Continued on back page, col 5

Swedish hamlet may not welcome Santa back

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Most of the 300 inhabitants of the Swedish village of Gesmda are all for Santa Claus. Others are more dubious and there is mounting opposition here to Mr Claus's projected arrival.

The base of contention is the plan of Mr Mark McCormack, the American businessman and sports magazine, to establish in a patch of forest at the foot of a local mountain, Santaland, a tourist complex comprising Father Christmas's home and workshops and such garish additions as the Palace of the Snow Queen, a dinosaur park and a mail-order toy company.

The idea came from two Englishmen, Mr Ken Edwards and Mr Gerry O'Sullivan, who work for Mr McCormack's Leisure World International in London. It would produce a

Swedish equivalent of Disneyland, but dedicated to Santa Claus, attracting both winter sports enthusiasts and summer tourists.

Gesmda, consisting of a few picturesque log cabins and farms, overlooks Sijlan, one of Sweden's most beautiful lakes in the holiday area of Dalarna.

When Santaland is built, 25 acres of forest will be felled and the forests of the Snow Queen's Palace will tower over the village.

The scheme has been given planning permission by an enthusiastic council and work is due to start in April. If all goes well, Santaland will be open for business by Christmas, 1984.

Mr Lennart Thorshad, a local councillor, backs the



Mr McCormack: From sport to snow queens

project. "The council will not be involved financially but a group has been working to get the scheme off the ground since 1981," he said. "It will be a quality investment, also involv-

ing children's charity organizations."

There are hopes that thousands of letters from children all over the world, which at this time of the year arrive here, addressed simply to Father Christmas, Sweden, will be returned to Santaland and dealt with there.

Mrs Ann-Britt Persson, who works in Gesmda's only shop, said: "Our village is in dire need of employment, otherwise families here will not be able to stay together. Santaland will provide work and there will be opportunities for various services to be set up to cater for the complex."

But another villager, Mrs Siv Andersson, said: "I don't like the idea at all. Our nature will be ruined and no one has any idea how much we will actually benefit."

Eagle Star record bid is matched

West German insurer Allianz Versicherungs yesterday matched BAT industries record £934m takeover bid for Eagle Star Holdings, with a 675p per share offer to shareholders.

The bid from Allianz is the seventh in the fiercely contested battle for Eagle Star which began 10 weeks ago. Allianz made its latest offer after the City Takeover Panel set a deadline of 4.30pm on December 30 for the final bidding. Last night Eagle Star said that although both bids were equal its board believes strongly that BAT is more appropriate parent.

However, the outcome of the bid was made more difficult to predict last night by reports that BAT and Allianz had arranged a meeting to discuss a way of resolving the battle before the December 30 deadline.

Finance and Industry, page 13

Quality in an age of change.

Workers at threatened shipyard support national strike call

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Workers at the threatened Scott Lithgow shipyard on the Clyde yesterday voted to support a national shipbuilding strike in the new year.

A mass meeting of about 2,000 of the 4,200 Scott Lithgow workforce yesterday backed the call for a national strike, repeated by union leaders on Wednesday night after British Shipbuilders refused to reopen negotiations unless the strike threat was lifted.

Mr Duncan McNeill, union convenor at Scott Lithgow, said after yesterday's meeting in Glasgow: "We don't relish the prospect of a strike, but if British Shipbuilders have made up their minds that we fit the bill at Scott Lithgow to solve over capacity, then it does not matter whether we are on strike or not."

In the Commons yesterday the Prime Minister emphasized the Government's refusal to be drawn into the dispute, and added: "I think the Government has already shown how much it is prepared to do for shipbuilding. Since 1979 British Shipbuilders have received some £50m.

Mr John Butcher, Under Secretary of State at the

Department of Trade and Industry, later told MPs that the Government accepted that the closure of the Scott Lithgow yard would be devastating for workers and their families. "We recognize the implications could be appalling and wider than the immediate financial loss to those affected", he said.

Earlier, Mr Peter Shore, shadow secretary for trade and industry, had called on the Government to make a final effort to avoid the strike threatened by the industry's 56,000 hourly-paid workers from January 6. "The holiday period now upon us should not be allowed to stand in the way of further efforts to reach an agreement. It would be criminal if this dispute, which has grave implications for the future of the industry, was allowed to proceed", Mr Shore said.

The strike has been called by the 17 unions in the industry in protest at British Shipbuilders' insistence that a £7 a week pay rise was contingent on agreement to a 10-point package of changes in long established working practices.

British Shipbuilders has said that acceptance of the productivity proposals is essential

for the survival of the industry, but the unions have said that the management is asking for too much too quickly. British Shipbuilders has told the unions that any further talks on the dispute would be only to clarify the management's position on the survival plan and not to discuss changes in management.

Members of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, voted by a four to one majority in a shipyard ballots not to take part in the strike.

Clerical and computer staff at British Shipbuilders yards in the North-west have decided not to take part in the strike.

Union leaders at Smith's Dock on Teesside yesterday rejected management offers of local talks aimed at preventing the yard from being drawn into the strike. Management said they believed local negotiations could achieve a deal acceptable to the yard's 1,700 workers.



Signatures of surrender: Marina Cole, of the Imperial War Museum, showing the instruments of Surrender signed by Argentina and Britain which went on display yesterday. The documents confirm the surrender of all Argentine forces in the Falkland Islands (left), South Georgia (centre), and Southern Thule. (Photograph: John Manning).

Academics face more pressure on jobs

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, confirmed yesterday that he is continuing to press for university teachers to be more easily subject to dismissal than at present.

He has advised in the case of three universities or university institutions which have sought changes to their charters that they should be empowered to dismiss members of their academic staff whom they wish to make redundant, unless an employment contract specifies otherwise.

The burden of his advice was disclosed in a parliamentary written answer given yesterday by Mr Peter Brooke, a junior Minister at the Department of Education and Science.

Sir Keith first ran into trouble over the tenure of academic posts when he proposed large cuts in provision for the universities' expenditure in 1981. He discovered that the charters of the older universities allowed for staff to be dismissed or made redundant only on grounds of mental or physical incapacity, professional misconduct, or scandalous behaviour.

He was persuaded of the need to provide £100m over two years for a so-called "restructuring fund" to meet the demand for generous compensation terms for those taking redundancy.

Sir Keith's aim since then has been to reduce by steady pressure the relatively privileged status of academic staff.

Many university teachers are already engaged on fixed-term contracts, with no life tenure. Sir Keith wants to change the emphasis so that universities will remain free to give permanent positions to those of exceptional merit, but so that most academic staff will, normally, be subject to three month's notice, as in other professions.

Where the governing body of a university wishes to change its charter, the change requires the approval of the Privy Council, which in practice takes the advice of the secretary of state.

At present, according to sources within the department, three institutions are seeking to retain, in altered charters, the traditions "good cause" rule which conveys indefinite tenure. In each case Sir Keith is resisting the perpetuation of a tradition to which he objects.

The three cases at issue are:

- The University College of Aberystwyth, which has been discussing a modern supplementary charter with the department for several years.
- The Institute of Education, which is owned by London University and is seeking a new charter so as to become a school of the university.
- The University of Sussex which, although founded as recently as 1961, is negotiating for changes in its charter and statutes, possesses the "good cause" rule and wishes to retain it.

Police to press for court costs

By Richard Dowden

Kent police are to apply to magistrates for administrative costs in bringing prosecutions, which could offset the police bill by between £100,000 and £500,000 a year.

The force said the scheme was to apply on behalf of the public for the costs of a prosecution.

"It is of course up to the courts to decide who pays costs. It has been estimated that with the cost of police and clerical salaries and so forth, it costs £10 an hour for a guilty plea, and £20 an hour for a not guilty plea. In those areas where the courts ask for an estimate of costs beforehand that is what we have told police officers to apply for."

The force denied that there would be any attempt to press defendants into pleading guilty by warning them of the court costs.

Jenkin rules out cash for council study

By Hugh Clayton, Local Government Correspondent

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment, refused yesterday to contribute towards the fee for an independent study on the cost of the abolition of the six English metropolitan counties.

He said that it was too soon to make a useful estimate, but took his criticism further in a letter to the leader of one of the threatened authorities.

His decision means that ratepayers in the counties will have to meet the £180,000 needed for a costing by Coopers & Lybrand, the management consultants. They have paid £40,000 for a critical study of the Government's abolition plan.

Mr Jenkin gave two reasons for not paying for the next part of the study. One was that a costing of abolition could not be done until plans had been made by the councils to take over the work of those being abolished.

The other was the commission from the threatened councils to Coopers & Lybrand concentrated wholly on spending by the councils. That was only one reason for getting rid of them, Mr Jenkin said. The other was that they "too few real functions" to justify their existence. The councils are Tyne and Wear, West Midlands, Merseyside, Greater Manchester and South and West Yorkshire.

Mr Jenkin questioned the basis of the consultants' study in a letter to Mr Bernard Clarke, leader of the Greater Manchester authority.

Mr Clarke said Mr Jenkin was worried about opposition to abolition. "I am dismayed that a minister should suggest that an independent assessment must be open to question while at the same time he is seeking to push his abolition plans through purely on the basis of broad estimates."

Boy, 16, on dynamite charges

Two of the 17 people detained under the Prevention of Terrorism Act by Strathclyde police appeared at Glasgow Sheriff Court yesterday.

Donald Anderson, aged 46, and a boy aged 16, were charged with conspiring to further the aims of the Scottish Republican Socialist Party by violent means and with obtaining 70 sticks of dynamite.

They made no plea and were remanded in custody.

GP's oppose new deputies rule

Government proposals for restricting the use of deputizing services by general practitioners would mean the closure of most of the services and substantial disruption of the remainder, the British Medical Association has told Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Minister for Health.

Dr John Ball, chairman of the BMA's general medical services committee, says there would be a serious effect on service to patients if the minister's proposals were not radically modified.

Greenham protest

CND calls off demonstrations

By David Cross

The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has promised that it will not demonstrate in London during Christmas or New Year so that the police can concentrate on hunting IRA terrorists.

CND said yesterday that the decision to postpone any demonstration had been taken after last week's Harrod's bombing, in which five people had died. Senior CND officials will meet next month, however, to plan continued protests.

In a statement issued on Tuesday after a CND protest in Trafalgar Square, Mrs Joan Ruddock, the organization's chairman, said that the small demonstration had been a spontaneous reaction to a rumour that a cruise missile was to be taken out of Greenham Common Air base. "We would not have called any major demonstration at this time and we fully support police effort to find the perpetrators of Saturday's appalling crime."

Mrs Ruddock was commenting on a statement by a police officer at the protest complaining that police resources were being diverted from the hunt for the IRA bomber.

In the Commons yesterday, Mrs Thatcher criticized the protest and said that it would have been "nice gesture" if the organizers had called off Tuesday's demonstration.

The Prime Minister was replying to a question from Mr Tim Egan, Conservative MP for Enfield North, who had condemned the protest for taking police officers away from street patrol duties.

Two members of Catholic Peace Action, Mrs Sara Hippenstone, aged 55, and Dr Ray Towey, aged 39, were jailed for seven days yesterday after refusing to be bound over by Bow Street Magistrates' Court to keep the peace (the Press Association reports).

They had chained themselves to pillars outside the Ministry of Defence building in London on October 11.

EEC job for Labour chief as dispute rumbles on

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Mr Hubert Morgan, secretary and organizer of the Labour Party in Wales, is to become a special adviser to Mr Ivor Richard, the EEC Commissioner for Social Affairs, but a dispute over his successor is continuing.

Mr Morgan, aged 65, should have retired in October, but his departure has been delayed because of an increasingly bitter argument over who should take his place.

In an unprecedented move, the national executive committee of the party refused to

Social work strike to end soon

By Our Labour Editor

The four-month action involving residential social workers that has halted admissions to homes for the young, disabled and elderly is to end soon.

Delegates of the National and Local Government Officers' Association (NALGO) voted yesterday to call off industrial action "as soon as possible" to allow their claim for a reduced working week and unusual hours payments to go to a joint inquiry under the auspices of the Advisory Conciliation and Arbitration Service.

More than 25,000 NALGO members have been banning admissions to municipal homes since September 9; and 1,600 are on strike because of local intensification of the dispute. There will be a return to normal working by January 9 at the latest, unless local disputes arising from the national campaign require continued industrial action.

Mr Michael Blick, chairman of the NALGO local government committee, said: "The Aca proposal for a joint inquiry is by no means perfect. At the same time, we have at least succeeded in persuading the employers to talk to us about this justified claim"

Father and son found dead

A father and his son, aged eight months, were found dead yesterday in a wood at Lakenheath, Suffolk. Mr David Ross, aged 24, and his son Iain were in a car with a length of hose leading from the exhaust pipe.

The discovery ended a police search which began after the boy was abducted on Tuesday from the home of his mother in Mildenhall.

Tanker crash costs £14m

The collision between the Iranian tanker Sivand and the limping oil terminal in September will cost insurers £14m.

Damage to the terminal totalled £9m and it cost £5m to clear 6,000 tonnes of crude oil from the Humber.

Divorce move

Lord and Lady Allendale are to be divorced after 35 years. The suit is to be heard by special procedure in London soon. The Queen, the Queen Mother and the former Labour Prime Minister, Clement Attlee, were among guests at the couple's wedding.

Tourists scared

Fear over radioactive leaks from Sellafield nuclear plant has cost Cumbria £25m in lost tourist revenue, a tourist board official said yesterday. Plans for many new holiday schemes, such as caravan sites, had been scrapped.

Women angered by 'eviction plan'

By a Staff Reporter

Greenham Common women are angry at what they regard as a coordinated Whitehall plan to evict them from their peace camp.

Miss Jane Hickman, lawyer representing the women said yesterday that it was unprecedented for a number of government departments to get together in peacetime to try to remove people who were using their democratic right to protest.

Earlier this month, Newbury District council introduced new by-laws which would enable it to remove any structure which could be classified as a "building".

On Wednesday about fifty women were evicted from their tents by police and bailiffs. The encampment was rebuilt a few hours later.

The memorandum, which Whitehall officials described as the personal view of the officials who had drawn it up, described the Greenham women as "dirty and scruffy".

A spokesman for the Department of Transport said yesterday that Mrs Lynda Chalker, the Minister of State at the department, had never made any secret of the need to clear women from land outside the airbase when the road-widening scheme went ahead.

£1.5m more for policing air base

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Home Office denied yesterday that it was setting a precedent by awarding Thames Valley police an extra £1.5m to cover policing the Greenham Common airbase.

The decision was announced yesterday by Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, in recognition of what he called the "exceptional additional costs" of the Greenham operation, which has reached more than £3.7, this year.

The Thames Valley Police Authority refused last month a precept giving the force extra funds and demanded that the Government should pay the bill.

The Government has now raised its contribution from 65 per cent, through Home Office and rate support grant, to 75 per cent. The force's total budget is more than £66m.

The Home Office said that the aid could not be regarded as a precedent for other large-scale policing operations regarded at a national rather than a local character.

Decision deferred on WPC in equality case

By Tony Samsing

The policewoman who won her sex discrimination case against the Metropolitan Police on Wednesday is to remain on foot patrol in Fulham, west London, for the time being.

Scotland Yard said yesterday no decision would be taken on whether to return Woman Police Constable Wendy de Launay to traffic duty until it had received the formal written judgment and recommendations of the London South Industrial Tribunal.

The tribunal had ruled that WPC de Launay, who was banned from working with married male colleagues last February, had been the victim of sexual discrimination and victimization when she lost her "posted partnership" with Police Constable Trevor Atfield.

The tribunal said yesterday that a written judgment normally takes about six weeks from the day of the verdict.

Burns given another term as Treasury adviser

By Jonathan Davis, Financial Correspondent

Sir Terence Burns, aged 39, was appointed yesterday for a further five-year term in the key government post of chief economic adviser to the Treasury at a salary of £39,500.

The reappointment means that Sir Terence, who joined the Treasury at the start of 1980 from the London School of Economics, could still be in the post until 1990. His original term, which was extended by a year earlier this year, runs until the end of next year.

A committed and eloquent advocate of monetary control, Sir Terence has won a reputation inside Whitehall for his ability to provide advice and policy ideas in a broadly non-partisan way. He was knighted earlier this year.

His reappointment was announced by Mr Nigel Lawson, Chancellor of the Exchequer, alongside a further reshuffle of senior civil servants at the Treasury.

Mr John Anson, aged 53, the deputy secretary responsible for industry, is to succeed Mr Richard Wilding as deputy secretary in charge of general expenditure matters. Mr Wilding is to take charge of the office of arts and libraries in the Cabinet Office.

Mr Anson will be replaced by Mr Nicholas Monck, aged 48, who is being promoted from his post as under secretary responsible for the Treasury's home finance group.

Mr Monck, who was principal private secretary to Mr Denis Healey as Chancellor in 1976/77, will be succeeded by Mr Tim Lankester.



Sir Terence Burns: Non-partisan adviser

The problems of financing terrorism

By Richard Ford

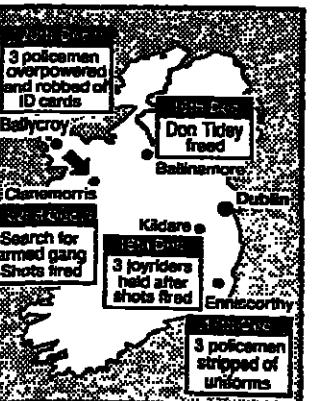
Thousands of army and police officers were continuing their search for at least three armed gangs yesterday as the Irish Republic's biggest security operation entered its second week.

Since the rescue of the kidnapped businessman Mr Don Tidy, there has been a series of incidents in which armed gangs humiliated the Republic's police force at two separate road check points, and a high-level review of tactics and performance is likely.

The Government is conscious of the damage the incidents have done to the Republic's image abroad, but emphasises that for the most part it is a peaceful country.

In the review, consideration will be given to arming the police and providing them with better radio contact, particularly in rural areas where many police stations close at night. It will also look at the operations of the Army's SAS-style Rangers and whether the Special Branch should have high velocity rifles as well as submachine guns.

The activities of Dominic McGlinchey, leader of the



The Republic's largely rural police force is not as effective as the Royal Ulster Constabulary, but has made great advances in recent years even though senior officers say it was not set up to tackle terrorism.

However, the Provisional IRA has attempted twice in four months to raise large sums of cash by kidnapping, a crime it has frowned upon in the past.

It admitted that the £5m demand for the safe release of Mr Tidy was "related to the struggle in the north", but it confirmed security forces' suspicions that the organization is desperately short of money.

Millions of dollars have been given by the people of the United States through the Irish Northern Aid Committee, known as Noraid, which the US Justice Department says is the "major American source of funds for the Provisional IRA". But it is thought that the amount of cash coming from the United States has slowed considerably causing problems for an organization which needs an estimated £2m a year to run its political and military campaign.

This cash shortage comes at a time when the political wing



Can you be happy this Christmas knowing he isn't?

While most children can look forward to presents, family parties and a happy Christmas, there are many with little to look forward to.

That's why we try especially hard to give these deprived and often homeless children a little extra fun and happiness over the Christmas period.

To be able to do this, however, we need you to give a little.

Even a small donation at this time can make all the difference to a child's Christmas. And to help, we can care for them throughout the year. So please send something to us now at the address below.

Name: _____
Address: _____

The Children's Society, 229, The Church of England Children's Society, Freeport, London SE22 4BB.

The Children's Society

Bank
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fake 'fre
£130m
Cable TV
gets more
channels

Bank customers face long queues in Christmas holiday action

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

Many high street banks face serious disruption today as some counter clerks stage an afternoon walkout in protest at the loss of their Christmas "early closing" perk. The Banking, Insurance and Finance Union yesterday reported that early returns from the provinces indicated growing support for its industrial action, and predicted that "tens of thousands" of its members would stop work after lunch.

Poison warning over fake 'fresh' turkeys

Consumer experts say that thousands of turkeys could be the cause of food poisoning because some shopkeepers are defrosting frozen poultry and selling it as freshly killed. If the birds are taken home and frozen again, bacteria will multiply, there could even be a food poisoning epidemic, West Midlands County Council's consumer services department says. The department has sent urgent warnings to all local authorities after "bad practice" in one shop a few days ago. Since then more than twenty shops in the Birmingham area have been discovered doing the same thing. The department said: "We advise anyone who has bought such birds and refrozen them to throw them away. Tell-tale signs are frost or water inside the bird." A woman who hung a holly wreath on her front door found that rain water made the berries turn green. She complained to the West Sussex

£130m festive tips to share

In the season of goodwill and considerable largesse something in the order of £130m will be changing hands as seasonal tips, gratuities and Christmas boxes. That excludes regular tips and service charges, and the cash value of gifts and presents in kind, which are likely to include some four million bottles of wines and spirits, perhaps a million cigarettes, and 200,000 lunches. Those results are extrapolated from a limited survey of Christmas tipping last year carried out among colleagues at The Times and my neighbours in Hackney, London's poorest borough. On average Hackney residents gave larger tips and Christmas boxes than Times staff, but they gave to fewer recipients. While Times people claimed that they would be paired with an average of £8.57, this Christmas, the average expectation in Hackney was the bit for seasonal goodwill would amount to £7.84. In both groups men were appreciably more generous tippers than women. The most commonly tipped group were newspaper delivery boys and girls, who could expect to receive something from just more than three-quarters of respondent households. This was half as many as would be tipping the next-most popular groups who were, in order, the

Dilberta finds melon squash quite a mouthful



How does an elephant crack a Christmas treat? First, treat your treat, in this case a honeydew melon. Next, tread on it, gingerly. Now eat the result, something between a Christmas pudding and a melon squash. Lauren Chandler, aged six, and her cousin Carrie Clark, aged eight, were visiting London Zoo at Regent's Park yesterday when Dilberta the elephant (with her keeper, Mr Joe Haddock) set to. (Photographs: John Voss).

Whitehall caterers face competition

Civil Service catering is to be thrown open to competition from private firms, in an attempt to get better value for the £14m annual subsidy towards the food and drink consumed at work by government employees. Government departments responsible for the 680 official restaurants and canteens all over Britain are to be allowed to choose between outside contractors and the Civil Service Catering Organization (CISCO). Plant and equipment will continue to be provided by the departments concerned and the Government is to spend an extra £1.65m a year for the next five years to improve facilities. The changes, announced yesterday by Mr Barney Heyhoe, Minister of State at the Treasury, came after an official scrutiny of the system in February, which found that only 35 per cent of civil servants used available staff facilities. The scrutineers, including Miss Sybil Barnes, head of catering for Marks & Spencer, stated then: "The predominant picture is one of inefficient, out-of-date kitchens and comfortable dining rooms." The Government then decided to launch a £1m series of pilot projects to look at other ways of catering the service. Mr Heyhoe said in his Commons written reply yesterday that under the new plans, CISCO will retain overall central control to ensure consistency of standards among Civil Service facilities. But he added: "It is the intention that contractors and CISCO should compete for departmental catering work on an equal footing." CISCO, which will continue to charge the departments for advice, guidance and, where it is appropriate, for the provision of services, is to be established as a trading fund.

Side light ruling on new cars

Driving on side lights only will be illegal on new cars delivered after 1986 under regulations laid before Parliament yesterday. It will be possible to park cars with side lights only, but once the ignition is switched on the choice will be between dim-dip (dipped headlights with reduced light), full dip and undipped. Announcing the regulations yesterday, Mrs Lynda Chalker, Minister of State for Transport, said they followed favourable consultation with motoring organizations. The regulations will not apply to existing cars or to motor cycles, but the Transport and Road Research Laboratory is to investigate their possible application to motorcycles.

Councillor lied to get top job

A Labour councillor's lie has cost her a £21,000-a-year job as head of Merseyside Enterprise Board. Lady (Carol) Yapp, was offered the post after an interview on Tuesday, but the offer was withdrawn when she admitted that she had lied about her qualifications. The deceit of her claim to hold a BA (Economics) degree from Birmingham University was discovered after a telephone call was received in Merseyside county headquarters, where Lady Yapp is a county councillor. Lady Yapp said yesterday that the lie was no more than a "foolish transgression". She said her failure to complete her degree course lay in tragic personal circumstances and added: "What is more serious is the question why was the whole might of the local government officer system used to ensure that I was not appointed, even though my skills and expertise remain relevant." Lady Yapp has been closely involved in the working West Midlands Enterprise Board, which aims to create about 5,000 jobs a year. But its first annual report, published recently, showed a loss of £700,000. Mr Keva Coombes, the Labour leader of Merseyside County Council, denied that "the system" had cost her the job. He said: "Nobody is entitled to get a job on the basis of lies. I feel angry about this. It was a stupid act and it is not a technical irregularity to tell lies. There could have been no question of her getting the job." He said that she was offered the post subject to certain conditions, including a medical examination, the checking of qualifications, and the taking up of references. But after the call from the West Midlands, Mr Coombes questioned Lady Yapp. He said: "She admitted immediately that she did not have the qualifications. The job offer was withdrawn. That was not by mutual consent, as she has claimed, for she obviously could not carry on." Lady Yapp, aged 39, is divorced from Sir Stanley Yapp, chairman of West Midlands County Council, who remarried earlier this year.

Last-minute police plea to help 'alcoholic'

A last-minute plea to motorists not to drink and drive this Christmas has been made by Mr Roger Birch, a police association spokesman on traffic matters. Mr Birch, who is chairman of the traffic committee of the Association of Chief Police Officers and Chief Constables of Sussex, said: "The enormous amount of publicity on this subject for the last two weeks demonstrates how concerned the nation is at the tragedies and hardship drink driving causes. The point is that a few weak and selfish people, for the sake of that extra drink, are prepared to jeopardize the lives of others as well as their own. There is only one real answer: don't drink and drive."

Palace deal ruled out

The Prince and Princess of Wales are definitely not interested in buying Marlborough House, the former royal palace in Pall Mall, as a new London home, Buckingham Palace said yesterday. The building, last used as a palace in 1953 and occupied for the past 30 years by the Commonwealth Secretariat, does not have a single bathroom.

Princess's secretary leaves

The Princess of Wales's private secretary, is leaving his post to become deputy librarian at the Queen, Buckingham Palace announced yesterday. The move comes after suggestions of a personality clash between the Princess and Mr Everett, leading to several bitter arguments. The palace declined to comment on the reports yesterday, describing them as "purely speculative". A spokesman added: "It is simply a career choice of Mr Everett's."

Princess helps

The Prince of Wales is converting a barn at his Highgrove estate in Gloucestershire into five workshops for small businesses. The tenants will include a porcelain restorer and a woodworker. Mr Everett, who was reported to be on the point of resignation, was formerly the Prince of Wales's assistant private secretary and has been with the Princess since shortly after their wedding. He takes up his new post at Windsor Castle on January 1. Mr Edward Adeane, the Prince's private secretary, will now act in this capacity to both the Prince and Princess.

Pupils expelled for taking drugs

Four boys and two girls have been expelled from Bromsgrove School, Hereford and Worcester, for smoking cannabis. Two other pupils have been cleared after an inquiry by West Mercia Police and one remains suspended. No decision has been made about whether the children will be prosecuted.

Jaguar call

Jaguar Cars is to recall 4,200 V12-engined Jaguar-Daimler saloons and XJS coupés in Britain for modifications to the fuel system. A spokesman said leaks at high pressure points had been reported.

Bugsy's tour

The musical *Bugsy Malone* is to go on a national tour after it ends its West End run at Her Majesty's Theatre, Haymarket, on February 11.

Kinnock defends council

Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, bounced a child on his knee at a day nursery in Hackney, London, yesterday, and said: "These are the people at the cutting edge of the cuts." Mr Kinnock, speaking at the Lewisham nursery in Stoke Newington, defended the council's spending record. Vital services to the young, the elderly and the handicapped, had to be protected, he said. On Wednesday a High Court judge gave the borough leave to go to court to challenge the new spending targets set for Hackney by Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment. Mr Kinnock, speaking at the Lewisham nursery in Stoke Newington, defended the council's spending record. Vital services to the young, the elderly and the handicapped, had to be protected, he said.

Art thief posed as lord to dealers

American art dealers were offered works stolen from the Royal Academy by Sagarval Houghton, Southwark Crown Court was told yesterday. Houghton, aged 44, from Wandsworth, south London, passed himself off as "Lord Gordonstone". Mr Gerald Gordon, for the prosecution, said: "He often used another name of Dr Houghton and he would ask dealers if they would like to visit the library at his ancestral home to see the paintings and prints." "But if there was a danger of people coming to visit, Houghton would say the family home could not be the venue because of restoration work," Mr Gordon said. Houghton admitted stealing Giovanni Battista Piranesi prints valued at £17,000 from the Royal Academy, paintings valued at £15,000 from the Bishop Otter College, Chichester, and obtaining money by deception from two London dealers. He was jailed for seven years. Michael Cotgrove, aged 37, a carpenter from Canvey Island, Essex, described by the judge as "the victim of a plausible ruse", was jailed for two years.

Clash over coin

The Prime Minister appeared yesterday to have rescinded the £1 note from the clutches of the Treasury. Leading from the front, in the style which she has on occasion demonstrated before, she told Mr Marcus Fox, Conservative MP for Shipley, that she had reason to believe that the note would be retained.

Thatcher saves the pound note

Government meant to withdraw the note "in due course", and complained that it cost a great deal of money to keep pound notes in circulation. He said a £1 note lasted about 11 months, and the £1 coin introduced this year would last about 40 years. On Wednesday morning Mr Fox said the £1 note was "central to everything" and begged Mr Ian Stewart, Economic Secretary to the Treasury, to promise that it would live. But Mr Stewart was canny. If the note was under threat, he said, the threat came from the way in which it was misused by the public. Instead of being carefully placed in wallets it was now "frequently stuffed into pockets and purses". The result had been a serious deterioration of notes in circulation. "There may be ways of producing a £1 note that has a longer life than the present model," a Treasury spokesman said last night after the Prime Minister's comment (Kenneth Gosling writes). But it is still government policy, the Treasury insisted, that the note should be phased out in favour of the coin. When that will happen is not clear. "We have to assess it as we go along," it said. But it is not intended to introduce a plastic note on the lines of that of that in use, and apparently highly popular, on the Isle of Man. There have been security objections to it does not have a watermark or a metal thread. Mr John Field, chairman of Bradbury, Wilkinson, the banknote company that developed the note in collaboration with Du Pont, the US chemical company, admitted that that was the main drawback, although there was a low denomination there was less risk of this happening with the plastic £1. "We do lots of other things to the paper that makes forgery difficult," he said. The Bank of England's own printing works takes care of production and research. Mr Field said his company enjoyed a good relationship with the bank. "They are fully aware of what we do and what is available," he said. "We do talk about it quite a lot." There are about 550,000 of the plastic notes, in the Isle of Man. The island's auditor, Mr Christopher Tovell, said he had been utterly astonished at local reaction since the note arrived a month ago. As for the £1 coins, the Royal Mint says there are 148 million in circulation. Demand has risen in the run up to Christmas. Mrs Jacky Butcher, the mint's public relations manager, said large numbers, as with all new coins, had been "piggies-banked". The coins, she said, were still being minted at the rate to be anticipated considering they were intended to replace the present note and were not a new denomination altogether. Leading article, page 11

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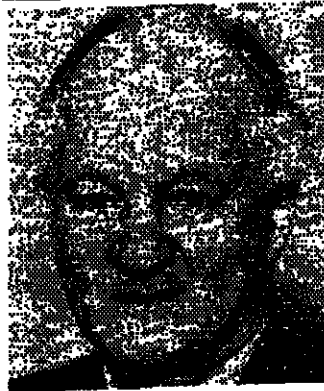
PARLIAMENT December 22 1983

Economic good cheer from Chancellor

THE ECONOMY

The recovery that was occurring in the economy was giving great cheer to the British people and great despondency to the Labour Party...

Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn, Lab): None of the major industrialized countries suffered a greater collapse in industrial and manufacturing output than under this Government...



Lloyd Hattersley's economic blasphemy

not of the fiscal deficit. They have a major advantage - there is no Socialist party in the United States...

Tory MPs attack rates capping Bill

LOCAL FINANCE

After the Prime Minister had earlier described the Bill on rate capping as overwhelmingly popular among ratepayers...

Mr Anthony Beaumont-Dark (Birmingham, Selby, Con): Surely this Bill is a constitutional Bill although the Government says we are a unitary country...

Provision for those in need

PM'S QUESTIONS

The Opposition should accept that it was necessary to have good management of resources and to live within a budget...

Mr Nigel Spearing (Newham South, Lab): Whatever happens in Calcutta, the responsibility for the sick, disabled and handicapped in Newham is for the Newham health authority...

Subsidy of £13,000 for each man

SHIPBUILDING

Workers at British Shipbuilders' Scot Lithgow yard on the Lower Clyde were subsidized by the British taxpayer at the rate of £13,000 per cent per employee...

Government is quite willing, indeed eager, to ignore these improvements and to disregard the positive response of the ship yards...

Mr Norman Godman (Greenock and Port Glasgow, Lab): a former shipyard worker, who later came to the matter on an adjournment debate...

Fortress policy not folly

FALKLANDS

There must be a change of policy over the Falkland Islands because Britain could not go on allowing its resources to be drained away...

Nice gesture if CND had cancelled

It would have been a nice gesture if CND had cancelled a demonstration held shortly after the Harrods bombing...

Foreign buyers put expensive houses back in fashion

Britain is seen as a prospective "bolt hole" by rich foreigners, according to Knight, Frank and Rutley, the international property consultants and estate agents...



Dr Brian Richards arriving at Heathrow airport yesterday.

Accused doctor returns

Dr Brian (Dick) Richards, the sex therapy specialist, who is accused of plotting to murder his Harley Street partner...

Languages plea by teachers

Secondary school headteachers have criticized, like many other educational bodies, they say that the document is seriously flawed...

Rival air route may close Prestwick

Scotland's international airport at Prestwick may face closure because of official approval for direct services between Glasgow and New York...

GLC to support minority arts at Roundhouse

London's Roundhouse theatre is to become Britain's first black community arts centre with the aid of a £330,000 grant from the Greater London Council...

Policeman jailed over £1,000 bribe

James Thomas, aged 51, a police inspector, was jailed yesterday for obtaining a £1,000 bribe from a restaurant owner...

Youth accused of making bomb hoax call

A car wash attendant from west London accused of making a hoax telephone call about a bomb in Selfridges store...

Village votes for death pill in nuclear war

People of a West Country village have voted by nearly four to one in favour of a suggestion by their local doctor that a "suicide pill" in a nuclear war...

Arabi review France and US give deadline Beirut Earthquake kills 10

Arafat-Mubarak talks raise hopes for revived US peace plan

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

The interlocking fighting within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), culminating in this week's evacuation of Mr Yasser Arafat and 4,000 of his fighters from Lebanon, has raised hopes in Washington that President Reagan's Middle East peace initiative can be revived early in the new year.

US officials said they were extremely encouraged by yesterday's meeting between the PLO leader and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. Relations between Mr Arafat and Egypt have been under severe strain since the 1979 Camp David accord.

US officials are hoping the PLO leader will hold talks soon with King Hussein of Jordan and give him the green light to enter negotiations with Egypt and Israel on Palestine autonomy.

The Americans regard an acceptance by King Hussein to join the negotiations on behalf of Jordan and the Palestinians as an essential first step towards implementation of Mr Reagan's September 1982 peace initiative.

If Jordan agrees to participate then, according to the official view in Washington, Israel will be forced to reconsider its rejection of the Reagan plan.

The President's peace plan calls for the establishment of a self-governing Palestinian state

in the West Bank and Gaza "in association with Jordan".

Earlier this year King Hussein held talks with Mr Arafat about the possibility of forming a joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation to negotiate the future of the occupied territories on the basis of the Reagan plan.

However, Mr Arafat refused to give King Hussein the necessary go-ahead and, as a result, the US initiative has been on ice for the past eight months.

King Hussein has made it clear all along he would agree to participate in the negotiations only if he had the backing of the Palestinians and "moderate" Arab states.

Mr Arafat's refusal to support him last April was largely due to the influence of Syria, which is strongly opposed to the Reagan plan. However, Syria has now lost that influence over Mr Arafat because of its support for PLO rebels during the recent fighting in Tripoli.

American officials concede they are uncertain how much influence Mr Arafat retains over the now deeply divided PLO. However, they believe he still enjoys the support of a majority of Palestinians living in the occupied territories and that he will continue to be recognized formally as the PLO leader by most Arab countries.

Mr Kamal Hassan Ali, the Egyptian Foreign Minister, who

held talks with President Reagan on Wednesday, said Egypt still considered Mr Arafat the most popular Palestinian leader. We also agreed with the American assessment that his evacuation from Lebanon had opened the way for a new "political approach" to the Middle East problem.

If Mr Arafat went on to give King Hussein the go-ahead to join negotiations with Egypt and Israel then, it is hoped in Washington, the Jordanian ruler could obtain the necessary Arab backing at a planned summit meeting of the Arab League in Saudi Arabia on March 31.

However, US officials say it is still far too early to predict with any confidence what will happen in the weeks ahead. But they feel that the latest events in Tripoli have presented the United States with a new opportunity which they intend to exploit diplomatically.

30,000 greetings

Washington (AFP) - More than 30,000 letters and Christmas cards to Lieutenant Robert Goodman, a US Navy pilot, held prisoner by Syria since his plane was shot down on December 4, have been delivered to the congressional building here.

France and US given deadline in Beirut

Beirut (Reuters) - The Islamic Jihad organization yesterday claimed responsibility for Wednesday's early bomb attack here and warned French troops and US marines to withdraw within 10 days.

The organization made the claim and issued the warning in an anonymous call to a foreign news agency. A French soldier and at least 10 Lebanese civilians died from the blast.

The male caller told the agency that his group would "cause a real earthquake" under the feet of French and US troops of the multinational peacekeeping force in Beirut unless they pulled out within the specified period.

The Islamic Jihad is believed to be a fundamentalist group with ties in Iran.

The force of the blast, estimated to have been caused by a ton of explosives packed into the lorry shock Beirut and many thought the capital had been hit by an earthquake. An apartment building collapsed from the explosion.

Islamic Jihad has claimed responsibility for most attacks on French and US troops since they arrived in September, 1982 including the two suicide bomb raids on October 23 which killed 241 American servicemen and 58 French troops.

On Wednesday a hitherto unknown group calling itself the Black Hand telephoned the Pentagon and claimed responsibility for the explosion.

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A fanatical 'family' to rival the Mafia

Whenever Mr Husain Mussawi - the man widely believed to have been behind the kamikaze attacks on American and French establishments in Lebanon and Kuwait - has sensitive information to communicate to his backers in Tehran, he finds it convenient to have his cousin and boyhood companion, Mr Mohsen Mussawi, occupying the post of First Secretary at the Iranian Embassy in Beirut.

The two men are equally Lebanese and Iranian as a result of their upbringing and family links in the two countries. They are part of an extensive family network of Shia clerics with branches all over the Middle East, as well as nowadays among immigrants and diplomats from North Korea to New York.

In Tehran, distant relatives but fellow-believers include Mr Hossein Mussawi, the Prime Minister, and even Ayatollah Khomeini himself, though the bulk of the two men's business is done with a second-rank cleric, Seyyed Mehdi Hashemi, in charge of the Foreign Ministry's Department for Liberation Movements - more informally referred to as the Department for the Export of the Revolution.

Mr Hashemi was wanted under the Shah's regime for the abduction and murder of a moderate mullah, Ayatollah Shams-Abadi, of Isfahan. Now he supervises the ideological and military training of foreign Muslim militants, or "Islamic students".

Defecting Iranian diplomats have told *The Times* that he has set up secret fundamentalist organizations in many countries, including the "Liberation Organization of Islamic Tunisia", and even the "Egyptian Unity and Holy Struggle Orga-

nization", whose members assassinated President Sadat.

He is said to be devoting most of his time to the Arab countries of the Gulf, such as Kuwait and Bahrain, whose governments support Iraq's war effort against Iran.

Each week dozens of boats cross the Gulf from Iran to these states under the cover of darkness, carrying smugglers, illegal immigrants, political refugees and some trained saboteurs.

Kuwait has about 25,000 legal Iranian residents and a further 55,000 illegal ones. There are also many influential Kuwaiti families of Iranian origin, many of whom identify with non-Arab Iran, whatever the colour of its Government.

Three months ago, one such Kuwaiti-Iranian, Mr Husain Makki, was arrested on suspicion of fomenting religious unrest. A prompt Iranian warning to the Government of Kuwait secured his release.

What is new in the extensive network of Shia clerical families outside Iran is the resort to suicidal terrorism reminiscent of their eleventh-century forbears, the Assassins. Another novelty is the increasing number of militants from the Sunni branch of Islam making political alliances with Ayatollah Khomeini's followers among the Shia.

In many a Western capital, including Washington and London, young Palestinians, Syrians and North Africans, carefully cultivating a scruffy "Islamic" appearance, gather nightly in houses run with Iranian Government money, repetitively chanting slogans in adulation of "the Imam" for many hours at a time. No TV sets or Western newspapers are allowed.

UN force 'Lebanon's best alternative'

Amid reports that the idea of replacing the multinational forces in Beirut with United Nations troops is being mooted in Washington, Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the Secretary-General, again stated that the UN offered the best alternative for peacekeeping in Lebanon.

In a UN press conference, he said that some of the difficulties encountered by the multinational force troops would be escaped if the UN force since their presence around Beirut would require a broad base of support, including approval from all the

parties in the conflict. Their international stamp would make them less likely to be identified with one side in the dispute.

The UN peacekeepers would also serve under a unified command. Their mandate to carry out light defensive arms would reduce the sanctity of their mission would be undisturbed.

The Secretary-General also delivered one of his sternest lectures to the United States and the Soviet Union for their confrontational nuclear stand-

Kremlin cracks down on corruption

Moscow (Reuters) - The Kremlin less than a week before a key meeting of its Central Committee, yesterday gave warning that party members were expected to produce results if they hoped to remain in positions of power.

In the second attack in a week on the leadership of the republic of Moldavia, *Pravda* published a front-page leading article, saying that a decisive about-turn was needed.

Although the Moldavian party was criticized for inefficiency in a government decree only seven days ago, *Pravda* made it clear that the Kremlin had expected, and not seen an immediate response.

"An essential improvement in the style of working has not occurred", it said.

Another report gave warning that sinecures were a thing of the past, restating the tough disciplinary line of President

Andropov and appearing to indicate that he was still firmly in control.

He is expected to make his first public appearance in four months at next week's meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee of Supreme Soviet, the country's parliament.

The attack on Moldavia, which lies between the Ukraine and Romania, have been interpreted by some diplomats as attempts by Andropov supporters to discredit allies of former President Brezhnev.

One of those, Mr Konstantin Chernenko, thought to have been Mr Andropov's rival for the party leadership, occupied senior posts in Moldavia in the 1950s and maintained close links with the area.

Other diplomats, however, said they thought the attacks were intended more as a warning against sloppy ad-

The 'sniffer planes' scandal Giscard defends failed oil venture

From Roger Beardwood, Paris

Former President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing said last night that he was "scandalized" by what he saw as political exploitation of allegations that a state-owned oil company lost up to 500m francs (\$21m) in a venture he sanctioned while in office to discover oil reserves with airborne electronic equipment.

The former President was due to appear on television to answer journalists' questions on this issue.

At the heart of the drama - which has its comical aspects - is the Giscard Government's agreement to transfer to Switzerland in the 1970s the francs (\$23m) to finance the new technology.

When the so-called "sniffer planes" failed to discover a single barrel of oil, their promoters returned about half the money. The rest is still missing. What M Giscard d'Estaing has to explain is not only why he and the Prime Minister, M Raymond Barre, backed such an expensive and



M Valéry d'Estaing: An experiment "in the national interest"

apparently far-fetched project, but also why a report by the State Audit Court was destroyed.

M Bernard Beck, aged 70, president of the court at the time but now in retirement,

he had "lacerated" the report, "even though the court is not the Ministry of Defence". The statement lends strength to reports that the promoters of the electronic system had claimed it would detect nuclear submarines and uranium, as well as oil.

Among the promoters are a Belgian named as Baron Alain de Villegas de Saint-Pierre, an Italian technician, named as Signor Aldo Bonassoli, and a lawyer, M Jean Violet. They and their associates appear to have persuaded both the Swiss Bank and the French oil company Elf Erap of the invention's many merits.

In May, 1976, Elf Erap signed a contract with the Panamanian company Fimalux for further development of the system. The following year, Elf Erap got a new chief executive, M Albin Chalandon. When told in secret of the airborne detecting system M Chalandon was sceptical. In 1980, the company cancelled the contract.

Inquiry into safety at Madrid airport

From Richard Wigg, Madrid

The Spanish Parliament voted on Wednesday night to set up an all-party investigation committee to try to find the causes of the two recent air disasters affecting Madrid airport.

As uneasy about safety at the airport grew, it emerged yesterday that the pilot on an Iberia DC9 on a domestic flight from Valencia had to regain height as he was preparing to land because a Trans World Airlines Boeing 747 was still on the runway.

The incident occurred only nine days after the head-on collision in fog at the airport between an Iberia Boeing 727 and a DC9 on a domestic flight, which had apparently mistaken the runway. Ninety-two people were killed.

The latest incident was revealed by Señor Joan Lerma, Chief Minister of the Valencia Regional Government, who travelled on the DC9 on one of his regular visits to the capital.

No complaints have been made to the Civil Aviation Authority by the DC9's crew, and it seems clear that the pilot had not been given permission to land by the control tower. He was told to regain altitude and circle round.

Señor Enrique Barón, the Socialist Transport and Tourism Minister, speaking as Parliament unanimously approved an investigation, took the line that no administrative or political responsibility exists for the two Madrid crashes. Spain's airline pilots however, have severely criticized successive governments for alleged failure to install certain modern safety equipment at the Madrid airport.

Outlawed Turks bare teeth

From Rasit Gurdilek, Ankara

A concerted campaign to discredit Mr Turgut Ozal's monetarist, anti-inflationary programme has been launched by the burgeoning conservative and social democratic parties barred by the military from Turkey's new civilian Parliament.

In Parliament itself, the Opposition has indicated it will vote against the economic reforms but that is hardly a problem for Mr Ozal, the Prime Minister, whose Motherland Party commands 211 of the 400 seats.

Mr Ozal is pledged to prevent inflation rising above 10 per cent by the end of his term: end the lingering role of the state in economy; reduce unemployment; and restructure industry.

The Prime Minister, outlining his policies yesterday said that there was "No time to lose".

Indeed he lost no time in deceiving a radical increase in interest rates, to boost them above the current inflation rate

premier - and hence the official termination of the military regime - the Right Way Party ceremoniously recruited to its ranks more than 100 former MPs of the defunct Justice Party of Mr Demirel.

It was followed by the transfer en masse of the whole leadership of the Grand Turkey Party, which was banned by the military for smacking too much of the outlawed Justice Party.

This flexing of muscles has also attracted appreciative glances from the domain of the officially approved centre-right Nationalist Democracy Party.

The Social Democracy Party, another eminent force disqualified from the election and claiming the support of the voters of the banned Republican People's Party, has also lost no time in manifesting its defiance by reelecting Mr Erdal Inonu, the son of Ismet Pasha, the revered late soldier-statesman, as its chairman last weekend. Mr Inonu had been vetoed earlier by the military from heading the party.

Storm breaks in Canada over Eagleburger jibe

From John Best, Ottawa

A tempest has broken over some unkind remarks about the Canadian Prime Minister, Mr Pierre Trudeau, attributed to the American Under-Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Mr Lawrence Eagleburger.

Mr Eagleburger, known for his plain talk and colourful turns of phrase, was quoted in yesterday's Canadian newspapers as saying that Mr Trudeau's so-called peace initiative "something akin to pot-induced behaviour by an erratic leftist".

The comment was carried by the Canadian Press news agency. It was said to have been made by Mr Eagleburger at a private meeting about three weeks ago.

Within hours of the report appearing in print yesterday, the United States Embassy here put out a statement almost - but not quite - denying its authenticity.

The statement said that Mr Eagleburger had asked the embassy to say that the reports of his comments were "grossly distorted".

Storm breaks in Canada over Eagleburger jibe

Instant wealth: Four nurses in Bilbao celebrate after learning that their ticket has won a prize in the lottery.

'The Fat One' works its annual miracle

From Harry Debelius, Madrid

"The Fat One" worked his annual miracle in Spain yesterday, turning paupers into rich men and fulfilling the Christmas dreams of Spaniards all over the country.

"The Fat One," as the Spaniards affectionately dub

his huge annual Christmas lottery, filled the pockets of thousands of Barcelona's poorer people, bestowed unimagined wealth on customers of a lottery shop in Bilbao, wrecked in this year's floods and later reopened, and gave the country's legislators an unexpected payoff.

More than one-third of the

£239m in prizes went to Barcelona and surrounding areas. The first prize and four other big prizes went there.

Inhabitants of the poor neighbourhood near the Felipe II market in Barcelona got a bonanza. Merchants had distributed tiny shares of ticket number 53,288 as a Christmas

gift among their customers. The number came up and a share of only 11p on that number became worth £1,000.

In the old quarter of Bilbao, families affected by floods had the consolation of £25m.

Employees of the Spanish Parliament, as well as some MPs, held lucky numbers.

Russians reject Ottawa's claim over Korean jet

From Our Correspondent, Ottawa

The Soviet Union has refused to accept Canada's \$Can2.1m (£1.2m) claim for compensation for the families of eight Canadians killed when a Soviet fighter shot down the South Korean airliner over Sakhalin island on September 1.

Mr Alexey Rodionov, the Soviet Ambassador, was called to the External Affairs Department to be informed of the claim. He refused to accept delivery of a formal diplomatic Note.

Concern at trial delays in Italy

From John Earle, Rome

One of Italy's best known television personalities, Signor Enzo Tortora, has been in prison for six months as a result of a police swoop on 900 alleged members of the Camorra, the Naples version of the Mafia.

The accusations against him are based on statements by camorristi already in jail. Signor Tortora has repeatedly declared his innocence. After the police blitz, it was found that about 100 of those arrested were cases of misnomers or mistaken identity.

Perhaps the most prominent case of preventative detention is that of the 7 April group of left-wing extremists around Signor Toni Negri, a Radical deputy who recently fled abroad.

Arrested in April 1979, they were brought to trial in March 1983.

An Amnesty International report said it considered that the period for which they were held before the opening of the trial was excessive.

who had reached senior rank.

Mr Andropov's line has been to insist on "personal responsibility", a phrase repeated in yesterday's attack, with senior officials being criticized because of errors made at the lower levels of their departments.

Under Brezhnev, a more likely scenario was for a junior official to be made a scapegoat for a mistake higher up. An indication of how seriously the leadership regards the Moldavian party misdeeds would come at the Central Committee meeting when the local party chief, Mr Semyon Grossu, will be called to account.

Moldavia is a small republic with a population of about four million, ethnically and culturally linked to neighbouring Romania, of which it was once a part.

Both *Pravda* articles emphasized the need to improve the everyday living standards



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Senegal puts death toll in rioting at 24

From Susan Macdonald, Dakar, Senegal

The official death toll during last Sunday's riots in the southern Casamance area of Senegal has risen to 24, although eye-witnesses speak of the number of dead being perhaps four times that figure.

The bloodshed was the result of a march on the provincial capital, Ziguinchor, by the Casamance separatist movement, which is agitating for independence from the rest of Senegal.

The police had previous information on the planned march and are reported to have had orders to deal with it firmly. They had taken up positions in the city in the early hours of Sunday morning, and there are reports that they opened fire on the approaching demonstrators, said officially to

number about 500. The demonstrators were armed with knives, bows and arrows, and firearms.

Five policemen died as a result of the street fighting and officially 120 people were injured.

President Abdou Diouf has reaffirmed his intention of safeguarding national interests and respect for the law. About 120 people were arrested and have been moved to Dakar.

The authorities severe reaction to the activities of the small separatist movement threatens to create a long-term dangerous situation. The important tourist industry in that area could also be affected by the disturbances, and just at the start of its busy winter season, by last-minute cancellations.

Swiss jail spy linked to S Africa case

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

Caught red-handed in an espionage contact assignment, Mikhail Vasilievich Nicolaitov, aged 49, believed to be a Soviet military intelligence officer, was sentenced to three years' imprisonment in Zurich yesterday after a trial in camera.

He was charged with espionage to the prejudice of another country - South Africa - and with carrying two American passports giving him different identities as Ronald Vincent Miskell, alias Dale Paul Nelson. The court said that his identity had not been established.

The sentence was the maximum in Swiss law for this form of espionage. His lawyer said an appeal would be lodged.

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EEC plays a waiting game to trim its farm budget by £100m

From Ian Murray, Brussels

Measures to cut the cost of the common agricultural policy were announced yesterday by the European Commission. They are meant to save about £100m from next year's £1,000m agricultural budget.

The Commission is using its management powers to delay payment for produce which it buys at the EEC's fixed intervention prices. In the case of milk for instance, dairies will be paid a minimum of four months after delivery, rather than the present two-month gap.

This delay, it is hoped, will force the dairies to try to unload their milk to buyers prepared to pay quickly. In turn, this will put more milk on the market and force down the price, making it less profitable for farmers to produce.

Delaying tactics are also being used on other products, notably cereals, where payments will take three months instead of two. The Commission expects similar results, though they are difficult to quantify at this stage.

Part of the savings from the 1984 budget will be nominal because money will have to be paid eventually from the 1985

budget. In the same way, about £210m frozen in payments from this year's budget, will have to be paid next year.

British farmers will emerge comparatively unscathed by the present package. A freeze on beef livestock premiums will not apply because Britain is the only country where beef producers receive their cash on the carcass, rather than on the number of head.

Sheep farmers will receive the ewe premium which will be paid next year for the last time. The Milk Marketing Board is so big that it will be able to cushion the effects of the delayed payments on dairy farmers.

The commission intends to produce another package early in the new year, which is expected to pare a further £100m from the budget. This will be done by imposing more rigorous quality standards on goods sold into intervention.

Meanwhile, the Council of Ministers is being asked to return to the agricultural reform package rejected at the Athens summit when it next meets on January 9. The Commission says agreement is the minimum

required to provide essential savings.

Ban lifted: The EEC has decided to drop economic sanctions imposed on the Soviet Union over martial law in Poland (AP reports).

"None of the member countries wanted to renew the sanctions in 1984, so they will lapse on New Year's Day," a spokesman said, on the understanding the would not be identified. "There will be no formal announcement. The measures will just die quietly," he said.

The last meeting of the commission which could have proposed a renewal of the sanctions - a ban on certain Soviet imports - ended on Wednesday night without action.

The official said the 10 member countries decided the restrictions had served their purpose. EEC officials initially proposed a ban on Russian imports worth about £270m a year, but the list was watered down by member states to 60 products, representing about £94m a year.

India says 'give us back our Koh-i-Noor'

From Michael Hamlyn Delhi

A shopping list of Indian antiques and works of art in Britain is to be drawn up by the Indian High Commission in the Aldwych in London, including the Koh-i-Noor diamond, the brightest jewel in the Queen Mother's crown.

The list will be used to bring pressure on Britain to return them to India.

The disclosure that the High Commission had been asked to draw up such an inventory - and certain guidelines had been given to them for the purpose - came during a discussion in the India Parliament over the return of the Koh-i-Noor diamond, now resting in the Tower of London.

Mr P. K. Thungon, the deputy minister of education, told members of the Lok Sabha there was no inventory of Indian antiques in Britain, and furthermore Britain did not accept the principle that cultural property which had been acquired freely and legitimately over the years should be returned to other countries. But he added that India would continue to pursue the matter through international forums.

The minister said under extremely strong pressure over the Koh-i-Noor, the 110-carat "Hill of Light", ceded to Queen Victoria in the treaty annexing the Punjab in 1849. Mr Sobranjan Swamy, a prominent member of the Janata Party declared: "It is the demand of the entire country that it should be returned to us." He was vociferously supported by other opposition members.

Mr Thungon had said something as naive that the question of a return did not arise as the Koh-i-Noor was given as a gift by the Maharajah of Lahore, Duleep Singh. That caused a furious outburst, as well it might, since the poor old Maharajah had been obliged to make a free gift not only of the diamond but of his entire domain by British force of arms in one of the most cynical actions of the colonization of the sub-continent.

To calm the row, the Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Mr Balkrishna Jaghdeo, suggested the minister that the question to be answered was whether the Maharajah was the proper authority to make such a gift. "Was he independent to do so?" he inquired.

Britons plead for lives of Chirwas

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

Mrs Shirley Williams, the president of the SDP, and Lord Elwyn-Jones, a former Lord Chancellor made personal appeals yesterday for the life of Mr Orton Chirwa, the Opposition leader in Malawi, and his wife, Vera, who are facing the death sentence for treason.

Together with Miss Janet Johnson, the London director of Amnesty International, they called on the Malawi High Commission to deliver personal messages to President Hastings Banda, who will have the last word over the Chirwas' fate.

Mr Chirwa, a veteran Malawi politician and former Minister of Justice, was convicted and sentenced to death, along with his former lawyer wife last May. But they were given leave to appeal, and this appeal hearing ended last month.

Amnesty and other friends and supporters in London fear that although no verdict has yet been declared, it could be announced over the Christmas holiday, making it difficult to launch any appeals if the decision goes against the Chirwas. Only President Banda would then be able to grant a reprieve.

Leaders of the Church of Scotland are also preparing to intercede with Dr Banda, himself an elder of the church. Dr Andrew Poole, a former Moderator, flew to Malawi to appeal on behalf of the Chirwas earlier this year.

Mrs Williams is a long-standing friend of Mrs Chirwa, while Mr Chirwa himself was once a junior counsel with Lord Elwyn-Jones. Both were said to feel very strongly on the matter, according to Amnesty sources.

A Foreign Office spokesman said they were keeping in close touch with the situation.

The official said the 10 member countries decided the restrictions had served their purpose. EEC officials initially proposed a ban on Russian imports worth about £270m a year, but the list was watered down by member states to 60 products, representing about £94m a year.



Mr Chirwa: Faces the death sentence

Cruise ban refused in Germany

Karlsruhe (Reuters) - West Germany's Federal Constitutional Court yesterday rejected petitions seeking a legal ban on the deployment of Pershing 2 and cruise missiles.

The court ruled that deployment did not violate the country's constitution and it was not the court's task to judge political decisions. Germany is bound by a treaty not to manufacture or use nuclear, chemical or biological weapons.

The first of 108 Pershings began arriving a month ago, and a Defence Ministry spokesman said they will be operational by the end of the year.

West Germany is also due to receive 96 of the 464 cruise missiles to be deployed in five West European countries, after the Soviet Union's refusal to dismantle its SS20 rockets.

A wave of petitions from various factions in the country's big anti-nuclear movement, had been filed with the court.

Uganda lets Rwandans go home

From Charles Harrison Nairobi

The Ugandan Government has ordered local officials in Rakai district, west of Lake Victoria, to allow several thousand ethnic Rwandans to return to their homes in the area. The Rwandans were driven out after clashes with tribes in the area earlier this month.

Ugandan officials say no orders were given for the Rwandans, many of whom have lived in Uganda for generations, to be uprooted - although nearly 100,000 other Rwandans who had been living in areas further west were ordered into refugee camps more than a year ago.

The United Nations High Commission for Refugees asked the Ugandan Government for information on the situation in Rakai, and was told that it arose from local tribal conflicts. Efforts are now being made to return the estimated 6,000 Rwandans to their former home in Rakai district.

Reports from the area say members of other tribes who looted the Rwandans' homes and cattle herds are now abandoning their loot as police try to track them down.

South Korea will free 1,600 under amnesty

Seoul (Reuters) - South Korea yesterday announced an amnesty for more than 1,000 criminals and political dissidents, including nine serving life sentences, who will either be freed from jail or have their civil rights restored.

Under a presidential clemency order effective today, 1,623 prisoners, more than 1,400 of them common criminals, will be released, while another 142 people already freed from prison will have their civil and political rights restored.

Those benefiting from the amnesty include General Chung Seung Hwa, the former Army chief of staff and martial law commander, released in 1980. He was among several senior military officials arrested in 1979 by President Chun Doo Hwan, then an army major-general, soon after the assassination of President Park Chung Hee.

In an investigation headed by Major-General Chun, General Chung was convicted of involvement in President Park's assassination by his own security chief.

The amnesty also restores civil rights to a Catholic priest, Choi Ki Shik. He was freed earlier this year from a three-year jail sentence for sheltering fugitives involved in an arson attack on a US cultural centre in the southern port of Pusan.

Other beneficiaries of the amnesty include 131 students jailed for anti-government demonstrations, 13 people convicted of involvement in the 1980 armed civilian uprising in the south west city of Kwangju, and four convicted of sedition.

The main opposition Democratic Korea Party, which has demanded the lifting of all political restrictions in the country, called the amnesty "a most welcome move".

The amnesty follows a government decision announced on Wednesday, to allow 1,363 students expelled for anti-government demonstrations to return to their universities. Earlier this month the government also said it would permit reinstatement from next year of 86 professors removed from their posts in 1980 for anti-government activities.

Boom in Soviet car industry - and any car will do

From Richard Owen, Moscow

The seven millionth Zhiguli car rolled off the assembly line not long ago and the Soviet car industry is celebrating. Soviet officials say that the Zhiguli, modelled on the Italian Fiat, has the best qualities of a family car, namely "comfort, reliability and efficiency".

Most Russians would say that while that might have been true when Fiat first set up its gigantic new plant at Togliatti on the Volga in 1970, Zhigulis have become increasingly uncomfortable, unreliable and inefficient since the Italians left for home and handed over to local management. Many are already queuing up to get on the waiting list for the new version of the rival Moskvič family saloon, soon to be produced in conjunction with the French firm Renault. The

Season of ill will and ingenuity: From Warsaw to Wall Street



Not the Harrods store: Shoppers bargain hunting in Buenos Aires at Harrods, a shop unconnected with the London store of the same name.

Santa dead drunk in the snow

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Christmas in Poland, or at least its secular celebration, has traditionally fallen into two distinct phases. The first is a concentrated week of commercial ill-will during which sales staff scale new unimaginable heights of rudeness and shoppers try their best, if necessary, by hiring babies or gangs of pensioners, to edge their way to the head of the queues.

The second phase is a period of abnormally high alcohol consumption. Drunken Father Christmases lurch through the streets, men in motionless in the snow and vodka flows like well, vodka.

This year Christmas Phase Two will be different. In a protest against the Government, thousands of Poles are renouncing vodka in solemn oaths sworn in church. A number of Warsaw churches, Poles, mainly intellectuals and students but also workers, have been gathering to hear sermons

that mix an anti-alcoholic message, with strong national sentiments and more than a trace of sympathy for Solidarity, a clearly political cocktail.

After the sermon and prayers, a pledge is read out: "Taking God and society as my witness, in the service of the Fatherland, of man's dignity and liberation and committed to an end to repression and hatred, I solemnly swear sobriety and renounce vodka during the period of the Jubilee Holy Year. So help me God."

That is the pledge encouraged by the Catholic church leadership. But many priests and a few lay Catholic activists have given the oath a sharper edge. The expanded oaths of abstention explicitly link the commitment to abandon vodka with the commitment to campaign for the release of political prisoners.

The logic of the campaign is that the Government is both

trying to sap the national will and earn revenue out of human weakness. "Our fate, the fate of the nation, is being decided now. For the society to regain its rights, let us give up our weakness. Let us reject evil to gain strength." Thus goes one of the more political plodes.

Every day one in 10 Polish workers is estimated to be drunk on the job.

"It is easier to control a drunken nation than a sober one, let's not make it any easier for them," says one Warsaw University lecturer who has signed the oath.

But the sacrifice is not as large as it at first seems. The oath runs only until the end of Holy Year, that is until Easter. Moreover, there is no question of total abstinence - only vodka, the political symbol, is invoked.

On the Warsaw black market yesterday, vodka was still doing well.

Peru guerrillas break truce

By Colin Harding

The assassination in Lima of a police general appears to be a further escalation of the campaign of urban terrorism by the Peruvian guerrilla organization, Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path), which has produced dozens of attacks in the capital since mid-October. General Carlos Herrera, head of the plainclothes branch training school, is the most senior officer to be killed in Peru's three-and-a-half-year old guerrilla war. His death most cast serious doubts on reports this week that Sendero Luminoso had declared a two-year truce in its heartland of Ayacucho, in the south-central Andes.

A few hours before the shooting of General Herrera, the Interior Minister, Senator Luis Péroovich, had announced the capture by the police of Antonio Diaz Martinez, one of Sendero's leading ideologists, and believed by the authorities to be one of the top five in the guerrillas' command structure.

San Cristobal de Huamanga university in Ayacucho, Señor Diaz Martinez spent two years in China before returning to Peru in 1977 and going underground. He was said to have been arrested in Huaraz, in the highlands of Ancash, several hundred miles north of Ayacucho.

If the identity of Señor Diaz Martinez is confirmed, his capture will be the security forces' biggest coup so far against the guerrillas. His wife, Catalina Adrianza, also a leading senderista, was captured two years ago, and is reported to have suffered a complete mental collapse in prison.

The blacking out of Lima for the sixth time in 18 months earlier this week suggests that Sendero's operational capacity is unimpaired, despite official claims that the guerrillas are on the run. The security forces have badly needed some favourable publicity, since re-

ports emerged in mid-November that 32 peasants, including several young children, had been killed by soldiers and counter-insurgency police units, in Soccos, Ayacucho.

After laying the blame for the slaughter on the guerrillas, the military commander in Ayacucho, General Clemente Noel, agreed to open an official inquiry into reports by survivors that his troops had been involved. This was the first official admission that the security forces might have been responsible for any of the hundreds of atrocities and "disappearances" in the Andean Killings zone.

Killings have continued unabated in the rural emergency zone, and last month two more provinces, Lucanas and Huanca, were put under General Noel's overall command, bringing the total to 11. The general claims that Sendero is being driven out towards the periphery of its heartland.

Christmas in America

Jingle bells and mounds of dollars

A man's fondness for litigation, I once read, may be taken as evidence that he is a crackler. Welcome to America, where litigation, encouraged by a glut of lawyers, is a national pastime, and the courts echo to plaintiff cries and the slap of writs.

The season of goodwill brings its own crop of bitter legal battles. Consider, for example, the fierce argument, rendering the town of Pawtucket, which stands on the Seekonk river, in Rhode Island. The Supreme Court itself is sitting in judgment in this matter.

The trouble has been ignited by the local council's nativity tableau, which has figures of Joseph, Mary, the swaddled Christ, a dancing elephant in a short skirt, a chipmunk and Santa on a snowmobile. (It is, after all, an American nativity scene.)

The American Civil Liberties Union pursued its lips at this and sought a court order preventing the council paying for the tableau with public money. It cites the constitutional insistence on separation of church and state and contends that the council's manger scene is an illegal endorsement of religion.

The God-fearing Reagan Administration has sided with the outraged council, but the National Council of Churches has not. Indeed, some clergymen have signed a statement saying you can have Santa on the rates, but not Jesus. A cleric who expressed this view on television was telephoned by a man who said "If you spoil my kid's Christmas I'll blow your head off."

Another Christmas lawsuit, in New Orleans, concerns Mr A. J. Copeland, owner of Popeye's, a fried chicken chain. The poignant part of the story is that he was once a poor boy who decided that when he grew up and became rich he would do as the local wealthy man did and decorate his mansion lavishly at Christmas.

He prospered on fried chicken and today his mansion has 250,000 fairy lights, an 185 snowman and piped cars. The neighbours, however, do not like the great crowds which flock to see this spectacle and are asking a court to order lights off. Mr Copeland says his neighbours are grinchy, American for grouch.

Apart from suing each other, Americans are spending money like drunken sailors. It is evidently a record Christmas, and delirious shopkeepers are being dug out from mounds of dollars. This is commerce rampant, in the land of abundance.

Santas are standing outside the great stores ringing handbells, calling the faithful to spend. The mammothists of Wall Street are paying each other fat bonuses (top executives are getting up to 25 per cent of their annual salaries), and hurrying to Tiffany's, a surprisingly dull, brown store, where the most expensive stocking filler is a necklace costing £1.4m - though most people settle for the £12 key ring.

Almost next door, on New York's Fifth Avenue, stands the new Trump Tower, a pillar of preposterous decadence and opulence. The doorman are got up in the red tunics and

bearskins, like moonlighting Coldstreamers, a grand piano tinkles in the lobby and a choir of nubile girls carol against the backdrop of a vast rose marble wall which doubles as a Hollywoodian waterfall.

The shops here are the kind that do not have anything so vulgar as price tags. The female assistants are tall and imperious and their lips, coated in cruel lipstick, hover on the brink of a sneer.

You ask the price of a tee-shirt and they say \$88, unblinking and without shame, as the colour drains from your face and credit card.

The present for the truly rich and corrupted is a silver dog bowl, engraved "Dog", which Aspreys sell for £1,400. Special Christmas bikies for the spoilt brute which feeds from it sell for £7. The biky makers, of course, are being sued in a lawsuit over the brand-name.

The Cabbage Patch doll craze, which swept the *Day After* craze from the television screens, has calmed a little and, there are fewer reports of shopkeepers being threatened and savaged by crazed mothers. (American parents are intimidated by their children, most of whom grow up to be lawyers.)

The inventor of the Cabbage Patch doll, it hardly needs to be said, is being sued for millions by someone who claims he pinched the idea.

In New York, the imperial city, the spending frenzy is especially acute, and Christmas shopping rages unabated all day and much of the evening seven days a week.

Charles Dickens, visiting the United States, said "I'm getting sick of the sound of sleigh bells. The extra noise created by crowds, traffic and bells in an already noisy city makes New Yorkers cover their ears like Quasimodos. Suddenly, earplugs are in big demand and earplug vendors are making money. Earplugs could be the next craze.

You can see Santas, carrying sandwiches in brown paper bags, pausing on their way to work to press their noses against store windows. There is much to astonish them. For the man who has everything, there are £200 pillows for foot pillows, or, perhaps, a small piece of the spinner with which the Americans lost the America's Cup.

It might be thought un-American to sell a souvenir associated with defeat, but the tradition of turning a quick buck prevails, and a spinner fragment can be had for £850.

In the land of the telephone hotline there is a champagne hotline you can call to get expert help. If you have champagne worries. And what Christmas is over psychologists will no doubt be brought on to television to explain to people why they spent so much and how they can cope with their guilt.

Many Christmas gifts will not work properly, but there are plenty of lawyers on hand to help people sue the shopkeepers.

Tomorrow: Christmas in Russia

ports emerged in mid-November that 32 peasants, including several young children, had been killed by soldiers and counter-insurgency police units, in Soccos, Ayacucho.

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A Christmas tree angel is only a genuine member of the heavenly host if it has wings, suitable white robes and is opening its mouth to sing Hallelujah, a Hamburg court has ruled.

This celestial judgment was handed down after an unseasonable dispute between the city's customs authorities and an importer of china figurines aspiring to the rank of angels.

According to the Office of the City Treasurer, the importer maintained that his beatific wares, each shaped to hold a candle were Christmas tree decorations, and as such exempt from duty Hamburg's customs inspectors thought

otherwise, however, finding the would-be angels peculiarly lacking in ethereal attributes, and slapped on hefty tax.

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Trevor Fishlock

Court rules angels must have wings

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

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US-born bishop murdered in Nicaragua

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an importer of china figurines aspiring to the rank of angels.

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Special Performance (15)
Amil (PG)
Cinema
Family Business
Theatre in New York
Broadway
invalid
sent back
to bed
Linda Dean
up in arms
with stars
Linda Dean
up in arms
with stars

مكتبة من الأصل

THE ARTS

Cinema

Special effects of Christmas

Brainstorm (15) Empire

Krull (PG) Odeon Leicester Square

Family Business ICA

It is only the reminiscent Spirit of Christmas Past that forces the confession out of me: this week is the exact fiftieth anniversary of my first film. I hasten to add (since ordinarily I would never admit to much over forty) that I was a very tiny creature indeed. Only the suitability of the film, which was Paramount's Alice in Wonderland, and the fact that as a babe in arms I got in free (money was tight in the Depression years) could explain that first cinema outing. Even so I remember the circumstances clearly. It was a matinee, but it was already dark and snowing hard when I was carried home. I was wearing brown corduroy leggings of the kind in which they then coddled children; and while these were being peeled off I was shown the book and the Tenniel illustrations, and marvelled how these people had arrived home before me. From that moment I was hooked, utterly, on the cinema and insisted on being taken again and again, however unsuitable the film. They cannot have paid much heed to the British Board of Film Censors at the Plaza and the Corn Exchange in Lincoln, because I remember being scared to jelly by "H"-certificated films. More agreeably, the reprobate W. C. Fields, who was Humpty Dumpty in that Alice, became a passion. I saw every film he played in, could not distinguish him from my flesh-and-blood uncles, and worship him to this day. From that moment, at Christmas 1933, my fate and future were determined. Is such precocious formation good,

bad or inevitable? The moral of the story is not clear. One purpose of telling it, though, apart from indulgent reminiscence, is that it shows how, at one time, the cinema industry really took note of Christmas, and made and showed films that would grab family audiences at a time when competing distractions, not to speak of seasonal colds, would otherwise have decimated attendances. They recognized that in the Christmas holidays children can twist parents round their little fingers. All the cinemas had to do to pull in the children: the families would follow. This seasonal principal went back at least as far as 1899 when Georges Méliès's tableau film Cinderella played at the music halls refined enough for children to be taken to them. Those days are gone. The competition of television is too great and no one bothers any more. There is nothing at all seasonal about the current releases: Never Say Never Again, Jaws 3D and Trading Places, with Flying Sex, Private French Lessons and Let's Make a Dirty Movie for more recherché adult tastes. The single exception is Disney's Christmas double bill of The Jungle Book and Mickey's Christmas Carol. Just to prove that there can still be life in old market formulas, it is doing very nicely, thank you.

Of course it may be that the cinema trade reckons that today's Computer Kids want not cartoons and fairy tales but the sort of electronic special effects which are the principal purpose of this week's two commercial releases. In films like Close Encounters of the Third Kind and Star Trek: The Motion Picture and Blade Runner Douglas Trumbull, who had already directed Silent Running, established himself as the king of special effects. For Brainstorm he was producer, director and supervisor of the special effects, which use 70mm Panavision film. The story is about two research scientists, working for a commercial company, who develop a device

which can record and reproduce the combined sensations of the human intellect, imagination and emotions. Their first elation is rapidly dashed as they see their discovery exploited by their ruthless employers and, converted to a brain-washing device, by the military authorities. The film struck the worst of possible luck. Natalie Wood, who plays the estranged wife of the male scientist (Christopher Walken), died before her part was finished; and, despite cunning patching and restructuring, it leaves this central relationship rather sketchy. A bigger drawback, even so, is that the imaginative conception of the script (by Robert Stütz and Philip Frank Messina, from a story by Bruce Joel Rubin) falls far short of the technology of the effects in sophistication.

The woman scientist (Louise Fletcher) dies of cardiac failure but before departure has the presence of mind to hitch herself to the machine so as to record all the sensations of death. Death, however, turns out to be only a flight of animated soap bubbles rather like double-exposure picture-postcards of the 1900s. The dénouement to effect the undoing of the villains simply degenerates into low farce, as Tattiesque electronic robots run amok and set upon their masters. After that it all simply comes inconspicuously to a halt.

Krull, directed by Peter Yates, combines sword and sorcery with space. The story is fairly incomprehensible. Set on the far-off planet Krull, it manages to combine elements of Homeric and Arthurian romance (some of the characters have Celtic-sounding names like Colwyn and Ynyr), Romeo and Juliet and Beauty and the Beast and King Kong. The princely hero battles with the Beast on behalf of the heroine, variously abetted by character parts now straggling in the margins of a Sharkey Fizz. Parfou concession assisted by his large, loyal and rather bored family of wife and eight children. The intention of this kind of slice-



Douglas Trumbull directing Natalie Wood in her last film, Brainstorm

Beast's castle - though the most magical effect of all is provided almost without trick work: the ride of the Fire Horses, a thundering herd of lovely white Clydesdales. Family Business, directed by Tom Hurwitz and filmed by Tom Hurwitz, is a slice-of-life anthropological study of two aspects of Middle America: the family and business. Howard Snider is a former Marine lieutenant-colonel now struggling in the maelstrom of a Sharkey Fizz. Parfou concession assisted by his large, loyal and rather bored family of wife and eight children. The intention of this kind of slice-

of-life cinema verité, filmed at length, with a minimum of editorial intervention, is to permit the people to reveal themselves and their inner feelings and motives. In fact they rarely do this, any more than people reveal themselves in real life, even without a camera there. Consequently we find ourselves a great deal more fascinated by the mechanical processes of making and marketing pizzas than with the rather elusive sentiments and relationships of this pleasant, moody family facing the odds of Reaganomics.

David Robinson

Television

Deftly delightful

On the face of it, the story behind last night's Channel 4 film Accounts did not seem to offer enough to sustain a full-length feature film but in the event its simplicity proved to be its strength.

A recently-widowed woman and her two sons, aged 19 and 17, move from their Northumberland tenanted farm to sink their fortunes in a hill farm of their own in the Scottish border country. From this Michael Wilcox developed - from his stage play, which won him an award in 1981 - a study of their relationships with each other, the land, and the outside world which never lost its hold.

It was an intimate piece of work including a keenly-observed examination of adolescent sexuality and a daunting portrait of the hazards of life on a hill farm. The family come to terms with their differing compulsions and each other while skirting bankruptcy and potentially hazardous personal encounters.

Robert Smeaton and Michael McNally played the elder and younger sons respectively; the first impulsive, inclined to be

sexually predatory but not without sensitivity; the second more disciplined in his behaviour and leaning towards a less orthodox type of sexuality that would, one might think, cause the odd problem in such a hardy community.

In their contrasting roles both did marvellously well, giving an impressive portrayal of sibling rivalry and affection. As their mother, Elspeth Charlton also convinced. All three looked at home, someone having taken the precaution of giving the boys, naturally most in contact with the mud and the blood, a pre-filming stint on a farm.

These were their first acting roles, which says much for them and the director Michael Darrow, who handled this delightful, moving and picturesque film deftly. I note that he comes from Newcastle so that none of the Geordie dialect, which gave me moments of incomprehensibility, would trouble him at all. Despite these little thickets when I was at a loss with the script I thought his film the most refreshing so far from Channel 4.

Dennis Hackett

London debuts

Flexible partnership

The most finished playing of the week came from the Australian flute and harpsichord duo of Vernon Hill and Roger Heagney - not surprisingly, in view of their considerable experience at home. Besides a close blend of refined and mellow tone, their partnership was distinguished by intimate give and take; sonatas by Bach, Handel, Mozart and the little-known Michael Elvege emerged all the more stylish and piquant because so truly shared. Fine breath-control enabled Mr Hill to sustain Bach's slow cantilena with more intensity than often heard from a flute. Mr Heagney's velvet fingers in their turn encouraged his Rubio (after Taskin) harpsichord to sing in a way Haydn might not have thought possible when writing his solo Sonatas in G.

David Telle's quiet command of his cello and poised, truth-seeking musicianship found ideal outlet in Bach's taxing unaccompanied Suite in D, given a clear-cut, purposeful sense of direction without any suggestion of an interpreter at work. This American's full, warm tone and infinite capacity for taking pains were valuable assets in Beethoven's E flat Variations and Debussy's Sonata, too, though the French work, in particular, needs a touch more intensity and temperance - from the reliable Myriam Teic at the piano as well. Clashing debuts only permitted appraisal of Sweden's Garcia Trio in Schubert's B flat

Joan Chissell

Opera

Interestingly grainy voice, Eduardo Alvarez grows through his performance as a Manrico whose dramatic spirit is willing even when his steely tenor grows weak. Natalia Rom, from Leningrad, is also a little short of stamina as Leonora though she sculpts every minute of her small-scale performance with exquisite care.

The evening is focused by Cynthia Buchan's Azucena, a performance of almost infinite shades of vocal and dramatic emotion which will surely grow to be a great one in another time, another place.

Hilary Finch

Kanawa/South Yorkshire Opera City Hall, Sheffield

What better way for South Yorkshire Opera, a vital amateur company, to raise funds for next season's productions than by having Dame Kiri Te Kanawa at Sheffield to give a gala concert with them? Only, of course, to make doubly sure of an audience by inviting Richard Baker along to introduce it.

Dame Kiri, accompanied tastefully by John Constable, began with some heavy-handed Handel. "Care self" sounded almost like a Schubert song, though it was more fire to "No dispenser chi sa".

But Mozart brought out better things from her. A poised "Chi sa, chi sa, qual sia", beautifully shaped, preceded a reading of the touching concert aria "Nehmt meinen Dank" that oozed childish innocence and charm, and by contrast in

Yuri Lyubimov, whose production of Tristan and Isolde in Bologna was reviewed on this page earlier in the week, is to stage Rigolotto at next year's Maggio Musicale in Florence. It will open the festival on May 5. Lyubimov will again be working with the British designer Stefano Lazaridis, who provided the sets for Tristan.

Countess Almaviva's aria from Figaro, "Dove sono", Dame Kiri seized with relish the opportunity for intense and subtle characterization, her voice at its smooth, rich and flexible best.

Similarly four of Cante-loubé's Chans d'Auvergne proved well suited to her. Simple their slightly naughty messages may be, yet they demand a voice of extraordinary flexibility and at the same time an intelligence that can retain the unblemished pastoral atmosphere which pervades them. Dame Kiri achieved just the right flavour, as she did in the three arias with which she ended. Scarcely a breath was perceptible in Juliet's romance "O quanto vorrei" from Bellini's I Capuleti di Montecchi, while every ravishing gasp was made to tell in Puccini's "Vissi d'arte" and "Dove lieta" from operas far more famous, Tosca and La Bohème.

Between her groups of songs the South Yorkshire Opera Chorus, conducted by Terry Hobson and accompanied by Peter Rhodes, sang heartily and in English a wide selection of choruses. The sopranos may wobble slightly, but this is a well balanced choir with a gratifyingly strong line of tenors.

Stephen Pettitt

Theatre in London

To the Young Vic authors, Nick Munn (music) and J. Edward Oliver (lyrics), all it offers is a pretext for an anachronistic comedy they could have subtitled "Evita and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat". First produced, like a rabbit out of his conjurer's box by her magician uncle Mordcaai, Esther joins in the royal beauty contest, proclaiming her love for the King amid the jeers of the other girls, and steps forward to deliver a "Don't cry for me Moses and Persians" proclamation into the imperial microphone.

The authors have transformed Esther from Jew to Medians, so that, when the villainous Prime Minister Haman gets the pogrom going, they go to ground in a Median resistance café run by the ousted Queen Vashti. There is one electrifying moment, straight out of the

Bible, where Esther, saying she can do nothing to help, changes her mind when Mordcaai points out that she will be killed like the rest of her tribe.

Otherwise, the task of translating biblical scenes into a royal disco dance and aerobic class, and staging the downfall of David Henry's frock-coated Haman in a Chinese restaurant, leaves the drama unexplored.

Rice and Lloyd-Webber developed their style to tell a story; here the same tricks of sung narrative, fairy-tale characterization and danger-defusing dance music are there for their own sake, and the effect is antiseptically half-hearted. There are some good voices in the company; and Amanda Redman does more than the book to persuade you that the heroine's heart is in the right place.

Irving Wardle

them Madness are capable of disguising everyday vignettes with a sardonic layer of glee; this artifice does not disguise the innate seriousness of their best numbers.

While the singers Suggs and Carl Smith swapped roles, the one as deadpan as the other was extrovert, the band rocked around a startling variety of styles from the clipped R&B of "Bed and Breakfast Man" to the psychedelic reggae of "Grey Day". Mike Baron's keyboards are the fulcrum of Madness music. Usually content to flesh out the sinuous rhythms of the drummer Woody and Mark Bedford, he occasionally added evocative leads that transported the sound to New Orleans; the

jazzy vibes chords on "Moving Along" were one example of his subtlety. The sombre reflection of "Embarrassment" and "Our House" have the same funny-peculiar intensity of vintage Ray Davis but the recent hit "The Sun and the Rain" is more idiosyncratic and experimental. I get the feeling that the group have reached the point of no return with this transition. They performed old stalwarts like "Buggy Trousers" and "The Prince" with good cheer and little conviction. Madness' integrity has never been in doubt but they may have finally outstripped even their own expectations.

Max Bell

Il trovatore Grand, Leeds

Viva Verdi! Civil war has arrived in Leeds: not 140 with the struggle for the throne of Aragon, but Spain in the 1930s. Leonora's house, the gypsy camp and the prison are all found within a decrepit railway siding, a handsome set by Michael Yeargan with all the intricate iron-work and missing panes of frosted glass so dear to the theatre of revolution.

The action for the Anvil Chorus is provided by pick-axes hacking a long-dead railway-line and a few rifles being hit together; Azucena sings aloft an army truck which carts her off; and, at more harrowing moments, clouds of steam rise from the sidings as from the last expiring puff.

The rest follows suit. Indeed the weakness of Andrei Serban's new production for Opera North is not that it imposes extraneous points but simply that it is rather pointless. Unlike Lavelli's Norma in Bonn, which it so closely resembles, it provides little opportunity for its protagonists to sharpen the original work on the whetstone of their newly-shaped roles.

So the music has to work rather harder. Alas, under the baton of Yan Pascal Tortelier, making his British operatic debut, it generally does not. There is energy enough, but it is light and flicker; every dotted rhythm becomes perky, every triple metre a waltz with too little time spent feeling Verdi's pulse.

The Kansas-born James Detsch is as yet a rather awkward Grant, though with an

Most positive are new plays by two of our best young playwrights, Sound and Beauty (Public Theatre) shows the Chinese American dramatist David Henry Hwang turning to Japanese culture for the themes of two one-act oblique love stories encased in ritualized power struggles. The director-choreographer-actor John Lo stages both with a keen ear and eye for the interplay of silence and sound, action and stillness.

Christopher Durang's Baby with Bathwater (Playwrights Horizons) demonstrates that occasional comparisons of his approach with Aristophanes are apt. Here he dramatizes, with his customary fury and anarchic humour, the premise that the way to raise a happy, healthy child is to do everything possible to drive it crazy. A new During note, one of reconciliation, evolves by the end and gives hope that he may mature into the rare writer in whom inventiveness and craftsmanship become fast friends.

Holly Hill Pop music Madness Lyceum Madness, purveyors of the self-styled "Nutty Boys" sound, have long been London's favourite band. Their success has seen them grow with dignity from simple ska roots to a real musical force.

The maturing seven-piece Madness are a revelation. Augmented here by strings and Dick Cuthbert's flexible needs, they eased through a store of witty, timelessly pop songs with relaxed assurance and instrumental élan. Like the Small Faces and the Kinks before

Theatre in New York Broadway invalid sent back to bed

Doonesbury: Laura Dean up in arms with Keith Szarabjka

Broadway, suffering from an all-time low of new shows and reduced attendances for a new season, came at least temporarily alive with the opening of Peter Brook's La Tragedie de Carmen. The stunningly simple staging, rapturously received by most New York critics, is particularly effective in the confines of the Vivian Beaumont Theatre, whose future is much in dispute. Brook definitively shows that the Beaumont's problematical space can be commanded to serve not only large-scale productions but small-scale, intimate, emotionally piercing drama.

The two musicals opening just after Carmen sent Broadway's fabulous invalid image right back to hospital. Many critics fell upon Marilyn (Minskoff Theatre) as if it were a mad dog, but this sometimes earnest salute to Marilyn Monroe is only a sad pink puddle. The product of a committee of composers and producers, the show has some touching moments largely due to the poignant acting of Alyson Reed in the title role, but it is too fragmented to hold either as a tribute to the late star or as general entertainment.

The combination of kitsch (Las Vegas-type numbers, costumes and sets), intrusive characters like three performers representing destiny and one-dimensional supporting characters, including Marilyn's virtually nondescript three husbands, make the show more resume than biography. Miss Reed imitates Monroe's voice and movements convincingly and sings well on her own, and as her adoring fan Willy Falk proves a show-stopping singer in his Broadway debut. Doonesbury (Biltmore Theatre), with book and lyrics



by Garry Trudeau, based upon his comic strip about US college life and politics, is a pleasant little show. The music of Elizabeth Swados, a composer whose signature is eclecticism so pervasive it belies individuality, is lively but sounds at least 10 years old.

Wedded to a book about graduating students whose off-campus home is threatened by a wheeler-dealer, the show has no satiric sting and emerges as an amiable entertainment likely to attract youths and Trudeau fans, but too middling to lure general audiences at Broadway prices. The ingratiating cast of 10 boasts an especially fetching singer-dancer named Laura Dean, who brings back all the good connotations to the word "cute". Peter Larkin's droll cut-out sets and Jacques Levy's staging move the show briskly.

The remaining new Broadway offerings resemble more a bland diet than a list of shows. Directed by and starring Carroll O'Connor (television's Archie Bunker), Brothers (Music Box) was the only original drama scheduled for this season and closed after one performance. His tale of a patriarch (Mr O'Connor) vainly trying to hold together his family and shipyard union had echoes of All My Sons and Death of a Salesman, but so faint that one longed for the sound of Arthur Miller grinding his axe. Limping along is Amen Corner (Nederlander Theatre), based upon a James Baldwin play about a Harlem evangelist, which distinguishes itself as a strange hybrid - a gospel musical without soul.

A revival of the tepid musical Zorba (Broadway Theatre) is buoyed by Anthony Quinn's performance in the title role and bubbles whenever Lila Kedrova

Advertisement for Chelsea Cinema. Text includes: "Light, enjoyable, unpretentious... the sureness of Truffaut's touch is immediately visible." "Trinitignant and Ardant are perfectly cast." "Magnificent..." "NOW SHOWING PROGS 1.45.200.6.20.8.45. CLOSED DEC 24 & 25" "CHELSEA CINEMA 206 KINGS ROAD SW3 TELEPHONE 351 2442"

Advertisement for Best Director 1983. Text includes: "BEST DIRECTOR 1983 CRITICS CHOICE AWARD" "DEPARDIEU in a film by ANDRZEJ WAJDA DANTON" "Magnificent..." "NOW SHOWING" "CAMDEN PLAZA"

Advertisement for La Traviata. Text includes: "For Christmas and the New Year - Book Now" "La Traviata" "Franco Zeffirelli's stunning new masterpiece is now showing at the ODEON HAYMARKET" "TEL: 930 2738" "Prog. times: 1.45, 5.35, 8.25pm" "All seats may be booked in advance."

Advertisement for National Theatre. Text includes: "NEXT WEEK AT THE NATIONAL THEATRE" "26 December to 31 December" "Olivier: Thurs, Fri 7.15, Sat 2.00 & 7.15" "JEAN SEBERG by Marvin Hamlisch, Adler, and Barry" "Cinderella" "The Rivals" "The Master Harold... and The Boys" "Not to be missed"

Violent death and torture are shattering the peace of rural Namibia as South African units battle to hold the line against guerrillas. Michael Hornsby visits the bush where the seeds of civil war are being sown each day

A land in the shadow of terror

Mpungu The far north-eastern Kavango area of Namibia, only a few miles from the Angolan border, is normally a sleepy place: a Lutheran mission station with a small church and clinic and a scattering of tribal kraals, the traditional stockaded enclosures of thatched huts fashioned from stakes driven into the ground, near which a few scrawny cattle seek what nourishment they can from the dusty soil. It is typical of the peasant-farmer settlements in the border region along the Okavango river.

had good reason to be worried. Koevoet - the name is Afrikaans for "crowbar" - operates as a special wing of the South African police, and has earned a notorious reputation for brutality.

Its twin functions are "interrogation" and "elimination" of Swapo agents and guerrillas, a brief which its members interpret liberally. Supposedly, like other elements of the security forces, it exists to protect Namibia's civilian population against the terrorists, or "tens", as the South African authorities always refer to Swapo. But most villagers will tell you that they feel far more threatened by the security forces than by the tens.

On the day earlier this month that I and another journalist visited Mpungu, however, it was bustling with unwanted and unwelcome activity. The day before a known informer used by the South African security forces had been shot dead in broad daylight by an unidentified assailant who then ran off. The killing was presumed to be the work of Swapo, the South West Africa People's Organization, which has been fighting a bush war for the independence of Namibia, as South West Africa is now known internationally, for the last 17 years.

The pastor, Nathaniel Shilongo, had immediately reported the incident to the nearby army base at Nepara. It was clear, however, that he was still regarded with intense suspicion by the white South African soldiers and camouflaged black members of a special anti-guerrilla unit known as Koevoet who had descended on Mpungu just before us in two of the wedge-shaped, mine-proof personnel carriers which are the main conveyance of the security forces.

Founded by Finnish missionaries in the last century, the Evangelical Lutheran Ovambo-Kavango Church, ELOC for short, now has an almost entirely indigenous black clergy, unlike the Roman Catholic church which is still largely run by white missionaries from Germany. It is the biggest church in Namibia and the South African security police tend to regard it as the ecclesiastical arm of Swapo, an organization that paradoxically also features in government propaganda as the godless agent of international communism.

Nervously mopping his sweat-beaded brow, Pastor Shilongo recited yet again his version of the shooting incident for his unwanted visitors. He



Namibia patrol: "Most villagers say they feel more threatened by the security forces than by guerrillas"

Mpungu clinic recuperating from appalling burns. Army sources say two soldiers have been "disciplined" for the incident.

"I fear a lot of people will be beaten up in the next few days (because of the shooting of the police informer)," Wilhelm Mpsi Setentu, the local headman, told us in his kraal on a low hill overlooking the Mpungu mission. "They started beating people up yesterday. We don't mind being questioned, but they beat us when we do not give the answers they want."

The white-haired old man, who remembers working as a kitchen boy for a German officer before the First World War when Namibia was still a German colony, then recalled, through an interpreter, a visit to his kraal last June by a group of white and black soldiers who accused him of helping Swapo. "They took my grandson outside, and fired a shot. We thought he was dead, then they came back and said 'that child is dead, now we are going to shoot you', and they pushed the barrel of the gun against my forehead."

The old headman insisted that he had never had any contacts with Swapo. "People are confused. If you are on the side of the government, Swapo may kill you. If you are on the side of Swapo, the government beats you up and causes you trouble. So people don't know who to support. We are tired, we just want independence, because then the Boers will leave, and there will be peace."

That is a widely expressed sentiment. The guerrillas do, undoubtedly, have considerable support in Kavango, even though their main stronghold is in Ovamboland to the west. But many people are simply tired of the endless harassment, violence and fear.

The insurgents exercise their own forms of pressure. Villagers may be forced to supply food to give medical aid. Headmen who cooperate with the security forces are sometimes murdered. Last July Swapo guerrillas in eastern Kavango abducted two black members of Koevoet by night from their family kraal, where they were on leave. They bound their hands behind their backs, led them into the bush and executed them.

The killing unleashed a wave of retaliatory "interrogation" by the security forces, several of whom later

claimed to have been beaten and given electric shocks while in detention.

The South African army is now chiefly occupied with maintaining control over a wide swathe of southern Angola. Military spokesmen coyly admit that the army patrols the area regularly and that units often spend weeks at a time inside Angolan territory. The aim is communication between Swapo's Angolan-based military command and its guerrillas operating inside Namibia to the south.

The task of hunting down the guerrillas has been increasingly "Namibianized" by turning it over to Koevoet, which, although it is not thought to have more than 1,200 men, is currently credited with more than 80 per cent of Swapo "kills". The unit's existence complicates the search for an independence settlement. Formed about four years ago, Koevoet operates in small groups under the command of white South African police officers. Its headquarters are in Oshakati in Ovamboland, and it is jointly controlled by Brigadier Hans Dreyer, a former chief of security police in Natal and police headquarters in Pretoria. Koevoet's existence has only recently been admitted, and much of what it does is still shrouded in secrecy.

A spotlight was turned on the unit earlier this year, however, when an inquest found that Jona Hamukwaya, a primary school teacher, and Kaduma Katanga, a peasant-farmer, from the same village in Western Kavango, had been beaten to death within hours of being detained by Koevoet constables who claimed that "all teachers are Swapos". All that has happened so far is that two Koevoet men have been fined small sums of money for acting "over enthusiastically".

In a more recent case, Jonas Paulus, another Koevoet member, was sentenced to death for murdering a village headman in Ovamboland last January. During his trial, Paulus told the court that when guerrillas were suspected of being in an area, a Koevoet unit would

go from kraal to kraal interrogating their inhabitants. "If they won't give us information, then one of our group assaults them, slaps them with his open hand, or beats them with a rifle butt".

Paulus also confirmed that Koevoet constables are paid about 350 rands a month (about £210), a salary which can be matched hardly anywhere else in the declining local economy. They also get bonuses, or "head money", depending on how many guerrillas their section kills in a month.

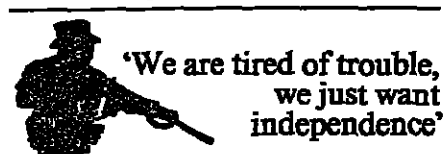
He also disclosed that Koevoet members are often issued with Soviet-made AK 47 rifles, the same weapon as used by Swapo. He himself was masquerading as a Swapo guerrilla when he committed the murder for which he was sentenced. This has lent credence to widespread allegations that Koevoet members sometimes dress up as Swapo guerrillas. If villagers offer food and shelter, they are allegedly beaten up or worse.

It is rare, however, for Koevoet members to be brought to book. Under the Defence Act, they are protected against prosecution if they can show they have acted "in good faith" in counterinsurgency operations.

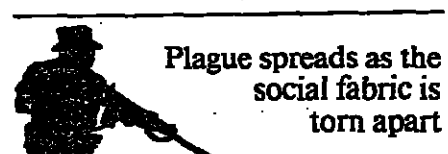
There is also a tendency to condone the Koevoet's rough methods on the grounds that, as one magistrate put it, "terrorists are not handed to you on a platter".

The war is being contained in the sense that its cost is probably almost indefinitely sustainable by the South African exchequer, and in the sense that it is an obscure and remote conflict which seldom impinges on the consciousness of an outside world with much else to worry about.

The long-term cost to Namibia's social fabric, as the diplomats and politicians argue interminably over the territory's future, is bound to be severe. Thousands of civilians have been driven from their homes by the war in Ovamboland, and civilian health services have largely collapsed. There has been a rapid spread of bubonic plague over the past year. Now there is the fear that South Africa could be sowing the seeds for a civil war as they draw more and more local people into the fight against Swapo.



"We are tired of trouble, we just want independence"



Plague spreads as the social fabric is torn apart

moreover... Miles Kingston

Full Marx for old celluloid

The chief glory of the Christmas period for me is the season of films on BBC "starring the Marx Brothers, Judy Garland, Michael Caine and Cary Grant". None of the films with this all-star cast has ever been seen before, and me and my video recorder are going to be watching them all, and to hell with carol singers.

First off is *Bringing up Alice*, a sparkling comedy in which Cary Grant and Judy Garland find the eight-year-old Michael Caine on their doorstep, with a note saying: "Please see this boy gets a good education or failing that, enough to eat, yours, Groucho." Michael Caine has such a good time being brought up that next week they find Groucho, Harpo and Chico in a basket on the doorstep. Most of the plot thereafter centres on whether Cary Grant or Michael Caine has the fake British accent.

Next is *Meet Me in Casablanca*, in which Judy Garland plays an itinerant singer trying to get to St. Louis, but who has had the misfortune to book her passage with the Rufus T. Flyswat agency and ends up in Casablanca working as a chambermaid in the Imperial Hotel (proprietor: the Quasimodo brothers). Harpo turns in a beautiful cameo part as the brother with the hump, which he keeps detaching and putting on other people. Anyway, Cary Grant is the world-weary millionaire who books in at the Imperial and falls in love with Judy, who unfortunately is in love with Caine, the British spy. This film contains the famous scene where Chico is playing the piano in a club and Groucho bursts in shouting "Don't play it again, Sam!" and shoots his brother, though not dead.

The six of them only made one thriller, *The Watercrest File*, which stars Michael Caine as the food correspondent who has the secret of a foolproof mayonnaise, which the Russians would like to get hold of. Judy Garland and Cary Grant are the American couple who unwittingly get it instead and are pursued by the Russians, who want to kill them and Harpo, who wants to stop Judy Garland singing. Groucho persuades Michael Caine that he must kill Cary Grant to get it back, to which he replies: "But I've never shot a man before," and Groucho says: "You can't go around shooting women all your life." They compromise: Groucho agrees to shoot Judy and Caine agrees to shoot Harpo, who is limbering up for a harp solo. The end is somewhat confused, but it involves Cary Grant attempting to sing and getting mayonnaise all over his face.

Perhaps the least successful of the films they made is *The Marx Brothers go to Philadelphia*, in which Cary Grant and Michael Caine play two missing Marx Brothers. Blotto and Hippo. All five of them fall in love with Judy Garland, but she prefers to run off with James Stewart, who was on loan from MGM at the time. There is a baffling scene in which Harpo tries to enter a camel for the Kentucky Derby, but this is now thought to be a left-over sequence from *Meet Me in Casablanca*.

The greatest of all their films, on Boxing Day, is of course *The Idiot of Oz*, in which Groucho plays the title role. Judy Garland plays herself and Chico plays a piano in mid-air dangling from a balloon. Cary Grant for some reason speaks in an Australian accent throughout; it is now thought that he was misled by the title into thinking that the film was set in Australia. Harpo is superb as the Tin Man; every time he wants a meal, he simply whistles a tin-opener on himself and produces a steaming casserole.

The opening scene, where everyone is picked up by a catastrophic hurricane in Kansas and transported thousands of miles, has never been bettered, certainly not in the recent remake *The Day After*. I shall always treasure the great moments from this film: Groucho picking up a brick from the Yellow Road and saying, "I knew this road when it was a public lavatory in Philadelphia"; Cary Grant, as the lion, being tickled to death by Michael Caine; Harpo's Tin Man playing an all-aluminum harp - but why go on? It will all be happening over Christmas and old films, surely, are what Christmas is all about.

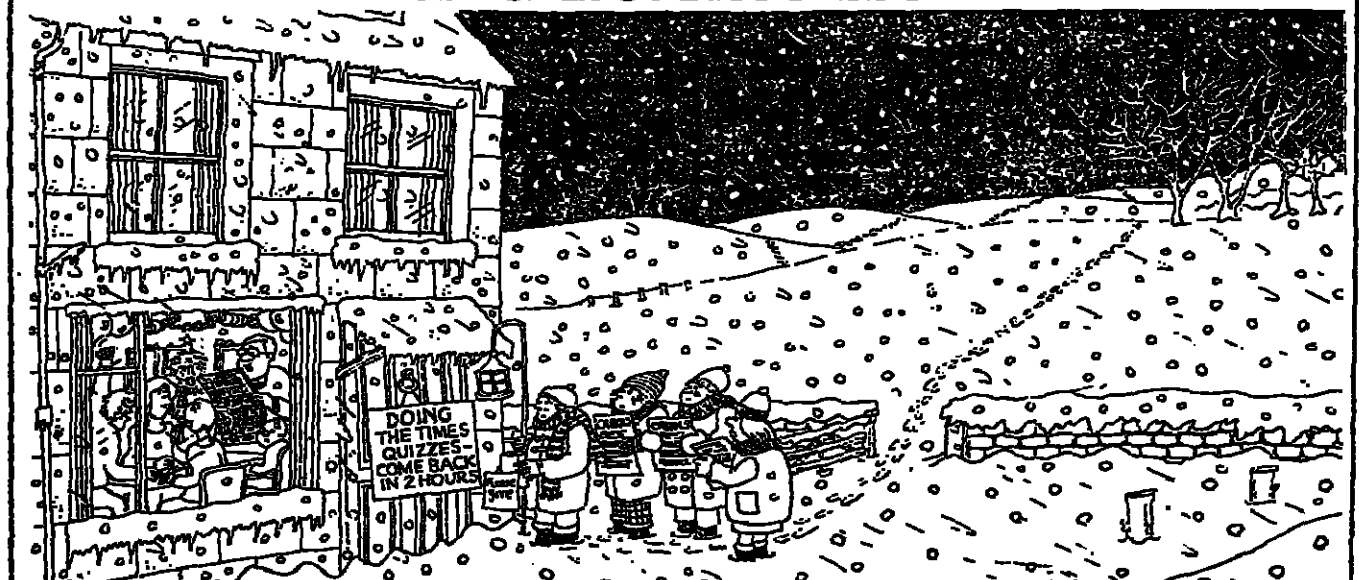
CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 231)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

- ACROSS: 1 Sketch (7) 2 Nominates (5) 3 17th Greek letter (3) 4 Oder region (7) 5 Beans over (3) 6 Rouse (4) 7 Strictly correct (7) 8 Sovereign's eldest daughter (8,5) 9 Exchange (4) 10 Projecting wood piece (5) 11 Have need of (7) 12 Financial support (3) 13 Live somewhere (5) 14 Surface growing (7)
- DOWN: 1 Medical measure (4) 2 Assign (5) 3 Educational (13) 4 Grip firmly (5) 5 No prosecution (5,8) 6 Foggly (7) 7 Resembling sister (8) 8 Animated (8) 9 Innocent girl (7) 10 Through (5) 11 In reserve (5) 12 Do business (4) 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28
- SOLUTION TO No 230
ACROSS: 1 Crisis 5 Scheme 8 Tie 9 Impede 10 Eureka 11 Volt 12 Stampedo 14 Emittance 15 17 Starburst 19 Exams 21 Adores 23 Nougat 24 Art 25 Trendy 26 Enlith
DOWN: 2 Romeo 3 Sweetener 4 Strepson 5 Scene 6 Her 7 Mikados 13 Perpetual 15 Matador 16 Escance 18 Essay 20 Avail 21 Run

Christmas Eve

SPECIAL 36 PAGE ISSUE



- Give us a clue: THE PRIZE JUMBO CROSSWORD
- Christmas past: A search for Santa in the Deep South - a seasonal story by Truman Capote
- Christmas presents: Match the gifts to the personalities and win a prize
- CHRISTMAS TELEVISION AND RADIO - a four-page pullout guide
- Remember this? Quiz of the year 1983
- Game for a laugh: Victorian parlour games for the family
- Sport: Full preview of Boxing Day's racing, football and rugby

PLUS All the news from home and abroad ● Travel - dog-sledding in Greenland ● Drink - mails and punches for Christmas Day ● Bridge ● Chess ● Collecting - the appeal of Christmas cribs ● selected guide to events in the arts

The vexatious path to a state of Satie-ty



Erik Satie and Reinbert de Leeuw: a Christmas best-seller

Almost 60 years after his death, Erik Satie, unquestionably the most eccentric of classical composers, has shocked the bourgeoisie once again.

A quirky bachelor of Franco-Scottish parentage, Satie wrote translucent piano music that sheltered under such absurdly irrelevant names as "bureaucratic sonatine", "desiccated embryos", "automatic descriptions", "intimate and secret musics" and "The I-want-you waltz". He did give one literal title, however, to a 90-second motif that he called *Vexations* and he ordered it to be played 840 times without a break.

This instruction was laughed off at the time as yet another of Satie's oddities, as implausible as his concept of "furniture music", sounds that would serve the same function as wallpaper. But when the age of muzak dawned many began to take Satie's philosophies very seriously indeed. Now, a

determined Dutch musician, Reinbert de Leeuw, has recorded *Vexations* complete, 35 times on a single long-playing disc, itself to be played 24 times to achieve Satie's intention.

De Leeuw, a 45-year-old teacher at the Royal Conservatorium in The Hague, plays the 180 notes of *Vexations* woodenly, without variation, mistakes, or any change in volume, emphasis or inflection from one repetition to the next. The record has all the charm and subtlety of a water-torture session. Yet, to the astonishment of everyone involved, it has become one of 1983's Christmas best-sellers. Last month, it was Philips' top-selling classical record in The Netherlands. Released in Britain two weeks ago, the first batch of records sold out immediately and Philips were desperately cabling for more.

For De Leeuw, described by admirers as "a connoisseur of tranquility", the surprise hit marks the fulfilment of a 20-year-old ambition. He first rose to the challenge of *Vexations* in 1963 when the American composer John Cage hired a team of pianists to play the piece. Four years later, De Leeuw hired a small hall on Amsterdam's Leidsekaade for a solo attempt at a marathon world premiere. Unfortunately, no one told the caretaker of the historic nature of the recital and the pianist and his handful of listeners were ejected from the premises at 1am, having heard Satie's theme only 117 times.

No one in the record industry, however, can explain the sudden popularity of *Vexations*, although some executives have been heard muttering that an awful lot of people are buying Christmas presents this year for relatives they dislike intensely.

Norman Lebrecht

MEDICAL BRIEFING

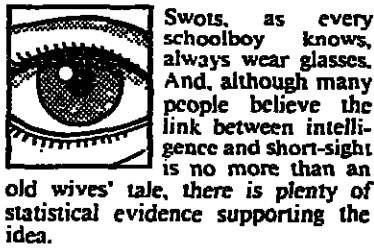


Elizabeth Taylor with Richard Burton, earlier this year

Beating the drug habit

Speculation is running on three fronts about why Liz Taylor has been admitted to a clinic to recover from the effects of long-term drug taking.

Short-sighted swot



Swots, as every schoolboy knows, always wear glasses.

But nobody knows why the link exists: it may be genetic or it may be environmental.

Protagonists for an environmental link argue that short-sighted children probably find games a bit of a struggle so they naturally prefer to read or entertain themselves with games they can see - which all tend to be a bit cerebral.

The relevance of these different theories is that it is now possible to correct short-sightedness surgically.

Only in the last couple of years has more solid evidence emerged from the United States that some short-sight can be corrected by surgery.

Striking an acceptable balance between effectiveness and convenience is the hallmark of a good contraceptive.

Next year will see the launch of a new generation of barrier contraceptives.

The initial clinical trial has been completed at the Margaret Pyke Centre in central London and compares the relative effectiveness of the sponge and diaphragm.

Looking further ahead, Mrs Bounds is waiting for the go-ahead to start a trial on the Contracep - a US invention.

Olivia Timbs and Lorraine Fraser

In last Friday's Medical Briefing, it should have been made clear that all frozen poultry should be thoroughly unfrozen before cooking.

Beatrix Potter's stories have enchanted three young generations. Now Caroline Moorehead discovers the newly published letters of the Potter characters

Peter Rabbit's postbag

Mrs McGregor, poring over her picnic dish and dreaming of a fine supper, may not have been much of a speller, but she was less agitated than Squirrel Nutkin after Mr Brown made off with his tail.



Beatrix Potter and, right top, Beatrix Moore, her god child. Above right Mrs Hammarling today

The one memento Beatrix, now Mrs Hammarling, has of her godmother is a silver sugar bowl, a christening present sent to her mother in 1903.

In 1893 when Joan's eldest son turned six and was ill in bed, Beatrix Potter wrote to him from Rushmore.

Though nothing was to come of it for seven years, Noel kept the letter. During those years Beatrix Potter, a shy and solitary young woman, was much put upon by her Victorian parents and took refuge in increasingly beautiful botanical drawings and her love for small animals.

The miniature letters, illustrated with scurrying ducks and complacent cats, usually arrived at Christmas and were circulated

among Beatrix Potter's young admirers. "She also always sent us an enormous turkey" remembers Mrs Hammarling.

"I do, though, remember her visiting us not long after the wedding and making us all laugh by saying that her honeymoon had been spent meeting a bull for the farm at the station."

to suggest that her godchild be sent to university and that she would pay the fees. Mrs Hammarling laughs: "My mother was Victorian and very straightlaced. She would never have considered turning her daughter into a bluestocking."

The stories that followed Peter Rabbit were just as successful and a whole industry - plates, freezers, furry animals - soon built up around the animals, with Beatrix Potter overseeing the production of each book, insisting that it be kept small "for little hands to hold" and cheap, so that children (she called them "little rabbits") could afford them.

Victims of violence: the double trauma

Those who survive violence often have long-term psychological scars. It is a paradox that some of these scars are caused by the way victims are treated after the event and it is a problem for both doctors and the police: getting the balance right between offering too much and too little help is delicate.

No one realized that there was any psychological problem until the hijack of a Dutch train by South Moluccans in 1975, when psychiatrists swung into action.

After the hijack, the former hostages complained of many small psychological problems but most of all of the belittling psychiatrists who had deemed them severely disturbed, nearly mad, because of their ordeal.

chiatrists, and here attention has focused on how the police behave towards victims of crime, and they have been criticised particularly for their attitude towards women who have been raped.

Funded by the Home Office, Dr Shapland studied 278 victims in Coventry and Northampton. Most had been physically, not sexually, assaulted, and often mangled badly.

But Dr Shapland had to report that things soon got worse. She talked to victims about three weeks after the assault, and then contacted

them for up to 18 months afterwards. Even three weeks on, satisfaction with the police had slumped.

Fourteen per cent of victims went so far as to say that if they were assaulted again they would not bother reporting it. Using classic rating scales, Dr Shapland found that victims soon came to rate the police as being significantly "less efficient, more offensive, less fair, more bureaucratic, more crooked, and less helpful."

And, if the Dutch smothered their victims with patronising care, Shapland found that the people in her sample felt, after a few weeks, "just not valued."

victims did not judge the police by whether they catch the villains or not. Arrests matter less than attention.

The psychology of this is not so odd even though it may offend those who claim that victims need retribution and revenge. To be assaulted is bad not just for a person's health but for their self-esteem. They feel damaged. More than ever, therefore, they need to be well treated. Being well treated does not mean being fussed over by sergeant social workers but it should mean being told what is going on at the right time; when a case may come up, if an arrest had been made - and being given all that information with respect. To be denied that reinforces the initial damage.

The problem is that these human needs clash with what the police see as their main role. To be caring when someone is injured is not hard but to continue that care, three weeks later, when they are back home and fit is hardly the role of the great detective or brave constable. Yet Dr Shapland's survey suggests that the victims want and need policing that is humanly sensitive rather more than detective wizardry. It's not a finding to ignore.

David Cohen

ALAN FRANKS

A cartilage torn in my knee



On the nth day of Christmas my third-born gave to me Twelve nights a-broken Eleven times a-woken Ten nappies soaked Nine nasty tokens Eight fags a-smoken Seven yells a-choken Six oaths a-spoken FIVE COLD GRINS Four falling curds Three drenched friends Two hurtled gloves And this job doesn't carry a fee.



On the next day of Christmas my second-born asked of me Twelve knights a-cloaken Eleven bikes bespoken (He must be joking) Nine Indians croaking Eight cowboys gloating Seven castles moaten Six dragons smoking FIVE VIKINGS Four mauling words Three henchmen Two hurtful shoves And a cartridge for a 3.3



On the last day of Christmas my first-born meant to me Twelve girls eeping Eleven boys a-hoping Ten padres popping Nine mothers moping Eight granmas coping Seven brothers sloping Six fathers toping FIVE LARGE GINS Four stalling birds Three French men Two purling loves And I don't think this job is for me.

Getting the needle

News that David Griffiths was treated by acupuncture to relieve severe knee pain was given just as much coverage last weekend as his triumph in finishing the 2,330 mile marathon from Peking to Hongkong to raise money for disabled athletes.

Few people now doubt the value of acupuncture in relieving chronic pain but western doctors, brought up to believe in the causality of science, must always ask why?

Studies have already implicated one major biochemical in relieving pain after acupuncture - beta-endorphin - which is released in the brain and circulates round the nervous system.

Successful acupuncture treatment given by doctors in this country tends to be given locally, with needles inserted where the pain is more intense.

TALKBACK

From Dr Penelope Leach, The Maze House, Rockhampton, Berkeley, Gloucestershire

As a reviewer, Rachel Cullen ("Bringing up baby", December 14) is entitled to express her opinions, and I must therefore ignore charges of authoritarianism, unrecognizable descriptions of "the Penelope Leach approach" and suggestions that I spend my time having the vapours over other women earning a living instead of earning my own.

I cannot, however, ignore Cullen's statement that I am "not above careful editing of the research evidence" to back up my views. The 200 references cited in my book Babyhood strike her as showing off, in fact

Male expectations

From George W. Burdett, 85 Henley Road, Leicester

Like Doreen Turnbull (First Person, December 12), I sympathize with the large numbers of women whose husbands have died. I think that equal attention should be given to the question, "Why do men have a life expectancy of seven years less than women?"

On balance

Standing alone

From Lady Murray, British Embassy, Skarpogatan 6-8, Stockholm, Sweden

For the past 34 years I have shared my life with an above-knee amputee, who is now the same age as Mr Whittaker. In the early years he had a number of operations, and still has often pain, discomfort and other problems. But, largely due to his particular approach, our life together has been and still is, almost no different from that of our two-legged friends.

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Advertisement for Smirnoff vodka. Text: "An apt Christmas cracker motto for the type who's too mean to serve Smirnoff." Includes a small cartoon and the Smirnoff logo.

Advertisement for Luxury Furs. Text: "Luxury Furs - Unique GENUINE ANNUAL CLEARANCE SALE". Lists various fur items and prices.

THE TIMES DIARY

Floating campaigner

Paul Genney, who is challenging the election returns of Austin Mitchell, Labour MP for Great Grimsby...

Literary germs

Secker and Warburg recently received a £200 bill for furnishing copies of James A. Michener's PULAH...

That figures

A colleague who called into a City branch of Wallace Heaton to have the battery in his calculator replaced...

Singing praises

At an occasion called Carols for Peace held this week in Chelsea, a choir from the Russian Orthodox Church mingled harmoniously with their more worldly countrymen...

BARRY FANTONI



"Neville will be OK. He hasn't worked anywhere for years"

Disarming

John Silkin, the chief Opposition spokesman on defence and disarmament, has just been elected president of the Parliamentarians for the World Order...

Port both ways

Reproducing paintings for Christmas cards is a busy business. The Shiprecked Fishermen and Mariners' Royal Benevolent Society has chosen Canaletto's painting of Westminster Bridge from the North...

To the point

The Pheasant in the King's Road, once the haunt of Diaghilev and the Russian Ballet, has gone into receivership. The Receiver hopes very much that the restaurants on the original Pheasant site will keep going...

Terror: let's fight it together

As I write, five British families, two in the Irish Republic and one in Northern Ireland have been bereaved by the terrorist violence of the past week...

After the Harrods bomb, Garret FitzGerald, the Irish Prime Minister, calls for closer cooperation in combating the IRA killers

to ensure that enduring good comes out of these tragedies. Behind these terrible events, and at the heart of Anglo-Irish relations, lies the extremely complex and intractable political problem of Northern Ireland...

extent that the forum comes up with worthwhile ideas that could provide a basis for peace, stability and reconciliation, it will then be for the British government and political leaders to decide whether and how to respond to them.

The constitutional Irish nationalist response has been to bring together parties representing 90 per cent of the nationalist voters. North and South, in a New Ireland Forum to seek a path forward towards the objective of peace and stability...

No one should doubt the will of Irish democratic politicians to tackle the security problems of this island. Whether through the unique process under which IRA terrorists are jailed in the South for crimes of violence or prison escapes in Northern Ireland...

Within three months we shall know just how successful this initiative has been and whether it can provide a basis for a fresh start in tackling that alienation of Northern nationalists from the political and security processes...

We would ask the British government, political parties and the British public to join with the Irish in a commitment against the gunmen, a commitment to exclude them from a say in our future. That can only mean joining with constitutional politicians in Ireland in a single urgent effort to create structures which will bring peace and real political progress.

Robert Fisk goes on patrol with the Queen's Royal Lancers

Beirut, a battle honour these soldiers don't seek

On the wall of the newly-plastered officers' mess at Hadeith, Major J. Roland Smyth is leading his 16th (Queen's Own) Lancers to victory at the Battle of Alwal on January 28, 1846.



Corporal Steve Collingwood of Birmingham, awaiting the action in Beirut: the Royal Lancers have a "cold detachment" about events in Lebanon except where they impinge directly on the British

They have it, it is true, covered the wooden door with a dreadful red plastic cloth that makes it look like the entrance to a Beirut night club. But Mr Campbell is clearly a dab hand with a hammer, even if his colleagues did disagree about one of the bullet holes in the wall. It was created earlier this month by a gunman who sprayed the British headquarters with automatic fire a few hours after Mr Campbell had been unwise enough to hang two prized 1822 family prints above the sofa...

both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Heseltine some very considerable worries. At Westminster, the Opposition suggested that perhaps the British really had no business in Lebanon. In the mess at Hadeith, the reaction was somewhat different: Corporal Nicholl made off with the spent bullet while Mr Campbell's colleagues very firmly told him not to plaster over the hole. It had to remain there: a memento, a battle honour.

They are very young soldiers, rather clubby in a public school sort of way, although they don't like the public school tag. When they saw a Private Eye lampoon suggesting they spent their time playing bridge and listening to the BBC World Service to find out what was going on down the road, they greeted the article with interest but something less than amusement. They do listen to the World Service voraciously but spend much of their time on vehicle checkpoints or endlessly patrolling the same hot, packed streets in Beirut.

Envisaged in Lebanon are treated in a detached, cold fashion except where they directly impinge on the British. You can detect this when Major Robin Faulkner, the Commander of the 16th/5th "A" Squadron, tells you about the shells that traversed the British base a few days ago. "The first shell landed just over there," he says, pointing down from the roof at an earth pit. "The second landed over there beside the factory. And the others..." Here there is a sharp glance in your direction. "And

70 Down - how many more to go?

This week, according to all the reference books, sees the seventieth anniversary of the invention of the crossword puzzle. In fact, some puzzles that I discovered recently, show that the crossword is now well over 100 years old. But according to the Guinness Book of Records the earliest crossword was one with 23 clues invented by Arthur Wynne and published in the New York World on December 21, 1913.

For some, talk of word diamonds will be less than convincing since most modern crosswords are square. The Wide Awake crossword of 1887 has what is possibly the first square "hollow" arrangements. Prize Cross-Word Square (note the hyphen) compiled by Bella J. of New York City. The puzzle consists of a five by five square with three Across and three Down clues with all the answers five-lettered. For the first correct solution the puzzle editor, one Kit Clinton offered "a nice chromo".

Alas, no one claimed the prize. But looking at the actual clues, one is not exactly surprised. Some words were probably more familiar than now but many of the words are obscure. But to the modern puzzler, what is more daunting than obscurity is the use of general categories rather than precise definitions, which was customary at the time. Nevertheless, unlike some word squares offered to St Nicholas four years earlier, it was apparently judged not too difficult by the editor.

Arthur Wynne was born in Liverpool in 1872 or '73. His father had been on the staff of the Liverpool Mercury from 1860 and, since Liverpool was the principal port for the United States, it seems reasonable to assume that the young Wynne would be familiar with American newspapers and magazines. If so, it must have stood him in good stead when he emigrated, in about 1905, and subsequently joined the New York World.

By 1924 when the craze had almost reached its peak, Arthur Wynne had moved on from the crossword and was somewhat startled to find himself hailed as an inventor. As he wrote in the following year, "All I did was to take an idea as old as language and modernize it by the introduction of black squares." Leaving aside the fact that his first puzzle did not contain any black squares, how true was this extremely modest assessment?

Word squares as such date from at least the Roman era, as seen from the remarkable reversible square of Sator, found at Pompeii and Cirencester. At first, such arrangements were thought to have religious or magical significance, but gradually were seen to be no more than the bases for puzzles. By the Victorian period, word squares, diamonds and other shapes, with or without clues, began to form the staple diet of puzzle pages.

Simon Jenkins The top shops that stay closed

Monopolies, someone once said, are like bats. We are against them until we have one of our own. A government minister robustly declared last week that the future of the closed shop was at last in jeopardy. In ringing tones, he declared that such restrictions were a "flagrant and fundamental denial of individual liberties... not only morally wrong but deeply damaging to the economy and jobs."

Morally wrong? Why then, in the past month, has the same government acted to protect from deregulation 140 closed shops - those of stockbrokers and of conveyancing solicitors? The pressure placed on ministers was uncannily similar to that of "working-class" trade unions on a Labour government. Constituency parties leaned on their MPs. There were lobbies at Parliament (obscure, not mass ones). Members would murmur "crisis of professional conscience" to those fathers confessors of the body politic, the whips.

With all the passion of a Joe Wad, stockbrokers and solicitors alike argued the adjustments they had already made to the twin totems of Thatcherism, new technology and market forces. They pleaded the problems of adjustment. They pleaded hard cases. They pleaded social benefits from the monopolies. Only let the government protect them from the Office of Fair Trading and Austin Mitchell's House Buyer's Bill. So far they have won.

What is so defensible about middle-class unionism, but evil about the working-class variety? Why is a government ideologically committed to rooting out all every monopoly so ready to conform to Marxism's stereotype of Tory class rule?

Myth and reality in British government remains an opaque topic. The Wilson and Callaghan administrations drew ideological inspiration from economic planning, growth and higher welfare spending. Yet in retrospect, these things seem a series of tawdry concessions to Labour's trade union backers. As ministers wrestled with the Protection of Employment Bill and a countless public spending reviews, the reality was higher wages for public sector monopoly unions and greater legal privileges for private sector ones.

Mrs Thatcher's government presented itself as equally rational in its policy motivation. Markets were the engines of economic efficiency and must simply be allowed to work. Deregulation, privatization and legislation against restrictive practices were matters not for the heart but for the head. They were the keys to the ladder of Tory economic prosperity. And as proof of Mrs Thatcher's determination, the new "cabinet of loners" would be secure against the pork-barrel, old-boy network which had made past administrations so prey to interest-group pressure. The government would do what was right, not what its supporters wanted. So we were told.

It was never going to be thus. From the upper-band tax cuts of 1979 through the company cars subsidy (now at £2 billion) to the increase in mortgage interest, a concern to protect the party's predominant interest among mid-

dle-class and middle-income groups has dominated ideology. Every year, Treasury officials pursuing what they thought to be the implications of a reduced subsidy economy have found the Cabinet adhering firmly to the maxim that middle-class subsidies are no sin.

Meanwhile, the farmer and the lawyer still stand like Gog and Magog glaring down at the deliberations of this Tory cabinet as they have done on all its predecessors. The Downing Street floor still trembles should any minister, especially from the Treasury, dare to trespass on their hallowed soil. Farmers are the one group a government can (through the CAP and manipulation of the green pound) protect from recession. The rate of increase in farm incomes over the past few years has been publicized enough in these columns. History will surely judge it one of the most extraordinary acts of political protection offered to any income group by any government since the war.

Lawyers likewise remain secure behind their myriad restrictive practices. The planning bar luxuriates in a fee structure (much of it at taxpayers' expense) which the government has done nothing to reform.

It is a feature of middle-class restrictive practices that their practitioners are articulate as well as politically potent in their defence. Thus we are told the solicitors' (or architects' or accountants') closed shops are necessary to protect the public. They are a guarantee of quality. If high earnings result, they are due reward for the grind of apprenticeships. Lengthy training is not to provide cheap labour to ease the lifestyle of senior professionals; nor is it just the way all trade unions restrict supply to maintain earnings. It is a safeguard for the customer and an essential experience for the job.

Perhaps. But have we not heard all this from train drivers and electricians in defence of their restrictive practices? We heard it last month from the Post Office engineers - and we ridiculed it. Surely monopoly is monopoly, a conspiracy against the consumer. This Tory government claimed a mandate to fight monopoly. It has declared war on the trade union variety (though how many union closed shop members are now marginal Tory voters?). It has likewise pursued business and industry through the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies Commission. But industry is no favourite of modern Toryism.

No, the traditional interests of post-war Toryism, the land and the professions, are clear of blame for any of Britain's shortcomings. Mrs Thatcher, whose signal virtue is at least a consciousness of her mandate, has occasionally argued with her colleagues that these interests should be cut down to size. So far, she has argued in vain. A shrewd minister will still insist that the closed shops and restrictive practices of his supporters, their protective legislation and covert subsidies, are cement to the fabric of British society, the underpinning of the establishment. Tory monopolies must never die.

The author is Political Editor of The Economist.

Philip Howard Enough legend to fill a stocking

Here we go again, then. The time draws near the birth of Christmas. The moon is hid, the night is still; the Christmas bells from hill to hill tussler each other in the mist.

Either we have all the walnuts and tangerines and Dinky toys we are going to need, or it is too late to do anything about it. It is time to get out the long, hairy Lovat hose, my mother-in-law has been waging an unsuccessful campaign for 20 years to dress me like an Edwardian country gent in loud tweed knickerbockers. Here comes the night of the year in which the gigantic stockings come in useful.

Tomorrow, of course, not really the night of Santa Claus, to use the name that Dada and German immigrants to America gave St Nicholas. His night is December 6. And his connexion with kiddies is tenuous. The belief that the fourth-century Bishop of Myra restored to life three small boys who had been carved up and pickled as pork, so demonstrating his love for children, is based on a misunderstanding of pictures showing him having three grown men released from a tower prison.

His three golden balls (St Nicholas is the patron saint of pawnbrokers and Russia, as well as of spoiling children) come from the legend that he threw three bags of gold through a window as dowries to save three poor girls from a fate worse than death.

Though Nicholas is one of the most popular saints in both the Greek and the Latin churches, almost nothing is known about him. According to tradition, he was Bishop of Myra, a rundown diocese in Asia Minor. He is said to have been imprisoned for his faith during the persecution of the Christians under Diocletian, and to have been present at the Council of Nicea, where he denounced Arianism. Do not believe the last claim. His name is not included in any of the early lists of bishops present at the council; nor does Athanasius refer to Nicholas in his voluminous and polemical writings.

at Constantinople by the Emperor Justinian. He became a popular cult figure in the west after the inhabitants of Bari claimed to have got hold of some bits and pieces of his relics in 1087.

No, if we are going to be canonical, tomorrow is St Irmina's Night. (Who she? Ed.)

Irmina is not one of your first-division saints; but neither is she one of your recapitulation saints, who ought to have been canonized rather than canonized. Irmina comes about halfway down the Southern League, just above Basingstoke. Her story is really more suitable for an operatic heroine, in something by Verdi or Bellini, than for pieties in stained glass.

She was the daughter of Dagobert, King of the Franks at the turn of the sixth century, and widely in love with the god next door, a German called Hermann. She was on her way to Treves to marry Count Hermann, when a young man called Edgar, who was travelling in her wedding party, fell head over heels in love with her.

Edgar galloped on ahead of the Frankish party, and told Hermann that there was a foreign merchant in the district from whom he could buy a remarkable jewel as a surprise wedding present for Irmina. He lured the silly Count up to a high rock overlooking the Moselle, and grappled with him until they both fell to their deaths. I can hear the opportunity for a pretty tempestuous tenor and bass duet at this point, and I can imagine the same difficulties of stage-management that face the producer in the last Act of Tosca.

The end of the story is quieter. Irmina immediately took the veil and became a nun in the convent at Treves, which Daddy Dagobert founded for her. She helped the Gordie Saint Willibrord in his missionary work, and gave him the land on which he founded the famous Echternach Monastery in Luxembourg. She died in 707. That's the Saint of Christmas Eve, not Santa Claus. And now, Irmina, dear girl, let us about our annual business. You carry the stockings, and I shall carry the stuff to put in them. Happy Christmas.

Kenneth Miller

The holiday Jumbo crossword will be published tomorrow.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

THE POUND IN YOUR PURSE

Until Mrs Thatcher got to her feet to answer parliamentary questions for the last time before Christmas, everyone in what are conventionally called government circles who felt entitled to have an informed opinion on the future of the pound note had no doubts about the policy for it. The note was heading for oblivion and for total replacement by the new one pound coin. What is more, its life-span was not expected to be long. The bureaucrats who determine these matters know their public's ingrained conservatism and dislike of newfangledness but they also know that what the public hates today it loves, when time has worked its miracle, tomorrow. They did not suppose that much more than a year would be required to see the new pound coin as firmly accepted as the once disliked 50 pence piece now is, after which the last tattered notes could be incinerated.

Then Mrs Thatcher spoke, and not for the first time did a little policy-making on her feet. Responding to a backbench Conservative defender of the one pound note, the Prime Minister accepted that the equivalent coin was not popular. "I have reason to believe," she added cryptically, "that the one pound note will be retained", and she left it at that.

What that reason was she did not divulge, but its identity is hardly obscure. It was her own instinctive reaction to the change. Mrs Thatcher, as well as being Prime Minister, also makes a point of being (so far as time allows) a housewife with a shopping-bag. She therefore knows what it is to juggle with a purseful (or come to that, a pocketful) of assorted coins, up to a maximum of eight denominations, none of which presents any logical relationship between size and value. What is more, she is presumably aware from experience that, to the eyes of the over-forties who have come to need reading-glasses, a fistful of 5 pence, 20 pence and £1 pieces are not easily distinguishable in a

poor light. Besides, though something of a radical in policy terms, Mrs Thatcher is also in practice a traditionalist: it would not, therefore, be surprising if she felt a certain affection for the old pound note for the sake of what it was before the demon inflation did its dirty work.

Inflation is, of course, the reason for the one pound coin. With the pound's loss of value, the notes are already treated as coins and loose change. They no longer repose clean and crisp in wallets, produced for occasional use; instead they are stuffed in pockets, waistcoats and purses, quickly becoming filthy and crumpled. Their old dignity is destroyed. What is more, the fact that they are treated as pseudo-coins actually makes it harder to replace them with clean new notes. When notes circulated more through the banks, the banks could send them back to the Bank of England for new ones when they became soiled. Now they go round and round as loose change between different pockets and purses, and the banks have much less chance to send them back before they become disgusting. Even so, their life is not more than about 10 months before they have to be replaced. Coins are more economical for the job and comparing the cost of producing constantly replaced notes with the cost of producing coins over the forty-year span which is the lifetime of a coin, several hundreds million pounds would be saved, at present values, by shifting entirely to pound coins.

For all these good and logical reasons, the Treasury which has responsibility in these matters had no doubt about what would happen until its First Lord took it by surprise yesterday. The sweetness of certainty pervaded the answers of Lord Glenarthur when he was questioned on the subject in the Lords on Tuesday. It was one of those occasions when the Upper House demonstrates that its claim to the virtual representation of those who did not elect it is not far short of the claim of 18th century MPs sitting for rotten

boroughs virtually to represent those who did not elect them. The Lords spoke for ordinary people, pointing to the unpopularity of the new coin, and instructing the government spokesman on its tendency to wear out pockets and purses.

He (who normally speaks for Health and Social Security as that department's under-secretary) answered with the full confidence of a junior minister who has the power of *Whitchall* behind him. "It is the Government's intention to withdraw the £1 note from circulation in due course once the public have had time to become accustomed to the £1 coin," he rejected the idea of a plastic £1 note as too forgeable, as did the Economic Secretary to the Treasury, Mr Ian Stewart, on a Commons adjournment motion the same night. Asked if he was sure that people wanted the new coin Lord Glenarthur remarked that "extensive consultations" had established the demand for it, adding mysteriously that his own private survey round their Lordships' House had found that it was "50-50 in favour."

Had Mr Stewart and Lord Glenarthur been able to consult the Prime Minister they would apparently have discovered that her mind had been made up on the subject for some time, even though she had not thought to mention it until yesterday. The note, it seems, will be with us for the foreseeable future, which means as long as people want it. The likelihood is that it will be wanted, as an option, until the whole range of the coinage has been re-assessed. Pockets full of heavy large 10 pence pieces of low value, together with small light 20 pence pieces, and small heavy pounds makes no sense, except to those hoping that someone will make a mistake with his change. The Treasury, together with the Bank of England and the Mint (its agents for notes and coins respectively) are thinking about it, and the Prime Minister's opinion on the subject ought to be very useful to them at an early stage of their general consultations.

HOMES FOR SALE - OR RENT?

The right of sitting tenants in ordinary council houses and flats to buy their homes is a stout principle. Its application in the past three years has been a boon to hundreds of thousands of families from municipal tenure of a type which the passage of time and the growth of incomes had rendered obsolete. The principle, however, is still observed only in the breach by sundry Labour-controlled city councils which - difficult as their housing is to make attractive for sale - have done everything short of law-breaking to discourage tenants: in debates on the *Housing and Building Control Bill* this week Mr Gow made a welcome promise to keep up the pressure on local authorities for which collective provision is the highest good.

Yet the right to buy is not, as the government appears to think, a universal one, to be compromised neither by fiscal common sense nor the state's duty to deal justly between social groups and generations. A right to buy need not encompass a right to extremely generous discounts - gifts of public money. The newly-tabled clauses to the *Housing Bill* offering a cash hand-out to the tenants of charitable housing associations will need very careful examination in the House of Lords,

whose members have shown themselves to have a keen eye for fairness: the government rightly wants to help this particular group of tenants but is a reduction in the money for housing associations the way?

The government's enthusiasm has now led it to apply the right to buy to the many council properties occupied by the elderly or disabled which are neither "ordinary" dwellings nor can be described as purpose-built. They may be bungalows which are easy of access by people who cannot manage stairs; flats where ramps have been built or those with bathrooms converted for the use of the infirm. The 1980 Housing Act left the status of such dwellings unclear and Mr Gow is in no doubt right to condemn those councils which have jerry-rigged an interim system between flats occupied by elderly people then passed them off as specialized accommodation in a bid to escape the right to buy. But there remains doubt over whether the government has thought through the consequences of declaring that accommodation for the elderly belongs to the general stock.

One consequence must surely be a reluctance on the part of councils to continue what in many areas has been good work

in building imaginative units useful for elderly occupants but not to be classified as "sheltered" (that is, where a warden is resident) and so exempt from purchase. Another could be the loss of dwellings containing specialized equipment if, as Mr Gow said he intended, elderly tenants buy and are succeeded by able-bodied inheritors; for councils then to purchase these dwellings would involve a substantial loss of public money and an unwarranted capital gift to undeserving beneficiaries of the tenants' estate.

The Housing and Building Control Bill has not had a happy provenance. Before the election the House of Lords threw out a key clause on the right of tenants of charitable housing associations; since then, the government has slipped in important exchanges at obscure stages. Now it goes to the Lords again and again it deserves a thorough examination. The duties and responsibilities of local authorities to provide housing for the elderly are of long standing; it is a role in which Mr Gow himself has encouraged them. There are strong reasons of public finance and social need for the Lords to consider very carefully this week's amendments extending an otherwise sound principle to a special and vulnerable group.

Called to account

From Mr Azim Husain
Sir, I write as a former Deputy Secretary-General who served the Commonwealth Secretariat for over seven years until 1978. I read your editorial "Called to account" of December 2 with much concern because it is so obviously based on a lack of information or understanding of the rules and procedures which govern the working of the secretariat.

There is a full measure of accountability. The secretariat is under constant scrutiny by the finance committee, consisting of all the 29 Commonwealth High Commissioners in London and a representative of the British Government, who approve the annual budget and also conduct a half-yearly review, after an eleven-member finance sub-committee has examined every aspect of expenditure in minute detail.

In addition, there is a wider ranging review by senior officials of the Commonwealth every two years, triennial reviews of salaries and allowances, and special reviews of the secretariat's objectives and priorities - there being two such in 1982, one of management structure and establishment, and another of classification, which have been progressively implemented in 1983. It is well recognized in the Commonwealth that its secretariat is cost effective.

It is equally wrong to say that "its senior appointments smack of an old boy network", or owe little to

competitive selection procedures. The two seniormost posts, like that of the Secretary-General, are elective: the rest are within the discretion of the Secretary-General, but he acts in accordance with general principles laid down in the agreed memorandum of 1965 by Heads of Commonwealth governments.

The most important principle is equitable geographical distribution. The vacancies in diplomatic positions are circulated to Commonwealth governments, and the semi-diplomatic and senior secretariat positions are intimated to High Commissions. Since Commonwealth governments have plenty of officials seeking experience and service in an international secretariat, there is keen competition for posts, and the Secretary-General cannot ignore consideration of such requests coming from Commonwealth governments.

It is, therefore, both inaccurate and unfair to write of "judicious patronage in senior appointments". More generally, such authority as has been delegated by Commonwealth governments to the Commonwealth Secretary-General in the matter of appointments is no more than has been delegated to the United Nations Secretary-General and the directors-general of the specialized agencies.

All this is quite easily ascertainable. One wonders why you chose to ignore it in so vigorous an attack on the secretariat two days after the successful Commonwealth meeting in New Delhi and the unanimous decision of Commonwealth leaders

to invite the Secretary-General to serve a further term.
Yours faithfully,
AZIM HUSAIN,
14 Lytton Close, N2.

Oxford admissions
From Dr D. C. Potts
Sir, The Headmistress of Harrogate Grammar School (December 9) is only the latest in a line of distinguished heads whose letters to you show a total misapprehension of Oxford's new admissions policy, inasmuch as they assume that there will no longer be any place for seventh-term candidates.

The University's Admissions Office has made it quite clear that it is not seventh-term entry which is being abolished, but the seventh-term written examination. In its place, from December, 1985, onwards, seventh-term candidates will be asked to show their papers orally in a scrutiny of their abilities which will inevitably be more probing academically than the present interview which complements written papers.

There is no reason why Mrs Dance's dedicated staff should not prepare their pupils for this just as effectively as they have been doing for the written examination, and every reason, given the increasing importance in the modern world of verbal communication skills, for them to regard it as a challenge well worth meeting.
Yours faithfully,
D. C. POTTS,
Kebble College, Oxford.

Fear of restriction on video

From the Editor of the Common Market Law Reports
Sir, The present Government has, rightly and successfully, been encouraging this country to embrace new information technology. And yet it does not seem to be aware of the harm that will be caused to that development by two Bills at present before Parliament.

The Data Privacy Bill requires virtually all computerized databases to be registered and supervised; the exceptions are opposed by left-wing reformists. The Video Recordings Bill requires virtually all videotapes and videodisks to be registered and censored; the exceptions are opposed by right-wing reformists.

If these two Bills pass into law the whole range of electronic publishing and information services will be subjected to control by state organs in a manner not seen in this country since the Tudor licensing of the printing press.

As usual, the restrictions are introduced to meet perfectly valid fears, but in both cases the remedy is much broader and more dangerous to our liberties than is necessary. The video censorship Bill in particular gives vast unfettered powers to the Government which could easily be misused in the future: videos of *The Day After*, for instance, would be subject to pre-censorship.

The procedures and associated costs involved in complying with these new laws will bear particularly heavily on small businesses with their scant resources available to cope with such requirements. Video sales have been estimated by many as a means of freeing us from the present restrictive patterns of film distribution, but the Bill will give added strength to the traditional film industry methods. In particular, the supply of cultural films and small quantity imports will be made very difficult.

The two Bills merge together in the new area of videopublishing on laser and computer tapes. There are already signs that Standing Committee C may require interactive computer material to be subjected to video censorship. Video encyclopaedias and videojournals are unlikely to escape scot-free, in spite of the "information, education or instruction" clause.

This is not a plea for video nasties or invasions of privacy. It is, however, an urgent warning to beware of the consequences of what, with the best of motives, we are now embarking upon.
Yours faithfully,
NEVILLE MARCH HUNTINGS,
Editor,
Common Market Law Reports,
European Law Centre Limited,
4 Bloomsbury Square, WC1,
December 17.

A journalist's 'duty'

From Sir Alec Atkinson
Sir, On December 17 you tell us that rather than disclose the source of a confidential report it is "usually the duty of a journalist... to say nothing and take the consequences, which may in the last resort include imprisonment for contempt".

On the other hand, on December 14, in connexion with the NGA dispute, you welcomed a statement by Mr Kinnoch that "he did not condone breaches of the law". Wherein lies the difference?
Yours faithfully,
ALEX ATKINSON,
Bleak House,
The Drive,
Belmont, Surrey.

Jobs in Gibraltar

From Mr Michael J. Burnett
Sir, There could hardly have been a more inappreciated titled leader than the one of December 13 headed "Gift horse to the Rock".

Firstly, Gibraltar is entering the ship repairing market at a time when virtually no ship repair yards, including those of British Shipbuilders, are profitable. Neighbouring regional shipyards at Cadiz, Huelva and Lisbon are heavily subsidised, have lower unit labour costs, and possess the same benefits of location which you ascribe to Gibraltar.

Secondly, the considerable overcapacity in world merchant fleets has led to many governments (and the EEC Commission) financing the scrapping of old ships and the rebuilding of new ships of more appropriate capacity, thus reducing the potential repair market.

Thirdly, your leader ignores the possibility of the Spanish government applying clandestine commercial pressure to shipping lines not to use Gibraltar as a means of pursuing their territorial claim to the Rock.

Within such a short period of transition the commercially managed shipyard in Gibraltar has very little chance of becoming profitable and thus of absorbing those currently employed in the dockyard (14 per cent of the total labour force) in a state of mopping up, as you suggest, unemployed construction workers.

Without employment in the dockyard the retail sector will be further squeezed in addition to the estimated loss of some £3m per year of expenditure (11 per cent of GNP) arising from the discrimination practised by the Spanish authorities in their restricted opening of the land frontier.

Your leader has laid the ground for any failure of the commercialised yard to be attributed to trade union inflexibility, or the lack of determination to succeed of the Gibraltarians as a whole. With the continued economic restrictions from Spain, perhaps the dockyard proposals would be better described as a Trojan horse.
Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL J. BURNETT,
Members' Room,
The Town Hall,
Wandsworth High Street, SW18.

Too chilling

From Sir Peter Vanneck, MEP for Cleveland (Conservative)
Sir, Your letters headline on Friday, "Chilling prospect of a nuclear winter" (December 16), is too unilaterally depressing. Thanks to the expanding use of nuclear power, all Europe, at any rate, can confidently switch on light and heat from cheap non-pollutant electricity sources to counter winter's dark and cold.

We should count our blessings as well as our worries.
Yours faithfully,
PETER VANNECK,
Centre Europeen,
Plateau du Kirchberg,
Boite postale 1601,
Luxembourg,
December 17.

Too high a price for the job in hand?

From the Director of the Low Pay Unit
Sir, You argue (leading article, December 20) that wages councils, which set legal minimum rates of pay for nearly three million of the lowest paid and largely non-unionised workers, "tend to price young people out of jobs" and should be abolished.

Before following your counsel, ministers would be wise to ask themselves why it is, therefore, that youth unemployment has risen most sharply since the mid-1970s, a period in which the earnings of young people relative to adults have fallen. They should also examine the success of the Young Workers Scheme (YWS), which must surely be the litmus test of the wage-cutting strategy for job creation.

The scheme is designed explicitly to cut the wages of young people: employers receive a subsidy of £15 a week for each young person they employ at wages of less than £42 a week. There is no requirement to provide training or even demonstrate that they have taken on new youngsters. The only condition is that they pay low wages.

YWS has been undeniably successful in cutting young people's wages. Indeed, in some cases employers are receiving a subsidy because they are paying wages below wages council legal minimum rates. But how successful has the scheme been in creating new jobs?

Last week the House of Commons Public Accounts Committee reported that 77 per cent of the jobs subsidised under YWS would have existed anyway and that the few new jobs created cost the Exchequer £5.355 each. Most of young people simply cut the wages of young people they already employ or replace older workers with youngsters. By the test of the Young Workers Scheme the wage-cutting strategy has been a dismal failure in creating new jobs.

Nor does the recent research

your hands you "would have used the information therein." Would you, indeed?
The scientific community in Britain lives under the discipline of editors who will not publish in reputable journals the results of research which involved unethical procedures.

Should not a reputable newspaper decline to publish a document obtained by the betrayal of a position of trust? I am cautious enough to recognize that there might be circumstances in which such collusion could be justified.

You go on in your leader to allude to the winks and nods by means of which "the press thrives on notional breaches of trust by its informants". But before we slide too far, is it not time to re-examine the principle?
Yours faithfully,
G. R. DUNSTAN,
9 Maryfield Avenue,
Pennsylvania,
Exeter,
Devon,
December 18.

House Buyers Bill

From Professor D. G. Barnsley
Sir, Anyone reading the House Buyers Bill will immediately notice one glaring omission. Nowhere is there any requirement that a "licensed conveyancer" needs to have any relevant legal training or even a rudimentary understanding of land law, contract or conveyancing principles.

There is a real danger that the public will assume that the issue of a licence implies a minimum standard of competence. This will not be so. It is difficult to see how the Consumers' Association can actively support the passing of legislation which will facilitate the undertaking of legal work for gain by persons having no legal knowledge or skill.

The danger is that untrained conveyancers on the general public stands in stark contrast to their recent warnings to householders about the dangers of employing inexperienced plumbers (see the September 1983, issue of *Which?*)

Will the untrained, albeit licensed, conveyancer know how to draft the contract for sale so as to discharge the vendor's legal duty of disclosure? Will he appreciate the purport of the standard form conditions of sale

Mosley and Germany

From Mr James Ennis
Sir, In your report (December 13) of the interrogation of Sir Oswald Mosley on July 2, 1940, he is reported as saying: "I do not believe among my own supporters there are any who sympathize with Germany in a struggle against this country".

This contention is simply not true. Within an hour of the declaration of war the crew of a German freighter, berthed in West India Docks, were marched by an escort of the Metropolitan Police and the 2nd Battalion of the London Scottish, to Thames Police Court, in Arbock Square, from where they were later transferred to internment. On the way to the court they passed through Salmon Lane, a notorious fascist area with a thriving BUF shop.

The local residents cheered them and encouraged them enthusiastically as if they were a victorious football team. I saw and heard the entire incident.

I am also credibly informed (although I was not present on the occasion) that, when Winston Churchill visited Bethnal Green after an air raid, he was loudly booed in Green Street, another notorious fascist area, in which the local BUF headquarters had earlier been situated.

The above two incidents, to my knowledge, were not representative of the East End of London as a whole, but they are enough to refute Mosley's contention.
Yours faithfully,
JAMES ENNIS,
Caledonian Club,
9 Halkin Street, SW1.

Aid for the small businessman

From Lord Wilson of Rievaulx
Sir, Your note on page 21 of *The Times* for December 16 ("Why small businesses don't grow into big businesses") is timely and much needed. The Small Business Research Trust is clearly doing valuable work.

At the political and governmental level there remains one important proposal of the Committee to Review the Functioning of the Financial Institutions (Cmd 7937 of June, 1980) on which so far no action has been taken.

Lloyd George, it will be recalled, at the time of his controversial "People's Budget" of 1909, established Cosira - the Council for Small Industries in Rural Areas.

Your review committee proposed that a similar council to assist small industries in urban areas (Cosurba) be established, and this was formally proposed in the Commons debate on the report.

A Conservative MP with City experience in his youth, followed by a period working in financial institutions in New York, had won a place in the Friday ballot and took the City inquiry report as his subject. I followed him with an account of our proposals. Unfortunately there has been no Government action aimed at endorsing our recommendations.

Many of our biggest firms exemplify small enterprises - for example Unilever, which began with the brothers boiling up soup in their mother's kitchen.

Today, with well over four million unemployed, if we include those without jobs who retired early with their pension fund entitlements, and two if not three generations of school-leavers subsisting - for a time - on Government work schemes, the case for giving effect to Cosurba is stronger than ever, and the Government should now take action to make its committee's proposal a reality.
Yours etc.,
WILSON OF RIEVAULX,
House of Lords.

Preserving buildings

From Mr Clive Aslet
Sir, Sir John Summerson (article December 17) is puzzled by arguments for preserving buildings which do not depend on purely architectural merit. But such arguments have a long pedigree and were advanced with eloquence by Vanbrugh in his memorandum on the preservation of Woodstock Manor, dated June 1, 1709.

Buildings of distant times, wrote the architect of Blenheim, "... move more lively and pleasing Reflections (than History without their aid) can do on the Persons who have inhabited them; on the remarkable things which have been transacted in them, or the extraordinary occasions of erecting them."

By contrast, the position of the architectural historian discriminating about excellence of design is comparatively modern. There is surely every reason why buildings which people have come to know and love over the years, and which lend a sense of stability and permanence to their neighbourhood, should be preserved, even when experts disagree on whether they are masterpieces on the highest intellectual plane.

Yours faithfully,
CLIVE ASLET, Honorary Secretary,
The Thrifts Society,
3 Park Square West, NW1.

Rail archive disposal

From Mr Gerry Burt
Sir, In answer to Dr P. W. Lewis (December 17), the Railway Board's policy is to offer all historical records to the Public Record Office, where the bulk of this material is now kept, or to the National Railway Museum. Dr Lewis is entirely wrong therefore in implying that the original Brunel drawings will be disposed of "in a cavalier fashion".

Whether or not the Public Record Office need the assistance of a working party in reaching a decision on the acceptance of specific records must be for them to judge.

In dealing with the national railway archives, I can assure you that the Railways Board acts in a responsible manner, tempered only by the constraints imposed by shortage of money and the need to reduce rather than add to its staff numbers.
Yours sincerely,
GERY BURT,
Chief Secretary,
British Railways Board,
Euston Square,
PO Box 100, NW1,
December 21.

Lines of beauty

From Mr Jeremy Montagu
Sir, A recent letter (December 9) advocated the planting of evenly spaced avenues of trees along motorways. We should remember that it was such an avenue that cost us the life of the greatest horn player of our time, Dennis Brain.

The regular and inexorable "ft, ft, ft" as one drives through such an avenue has a powerful hypnotic effect, especially when one is tired from a day's work and a long journey. There is enough mayhem on our motorways already without introducing new hazards.

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,
JEREMY MONTAGU,
171 Illey Road, Oxford,
December 21.

Slim difference

From Lord O'Neill of the Maine
Sir, If the Americans are happy with a paper dollar worth less than our pound, why should we be unhappy with our pound note?
Yours faithfully,
O'NEILL OF THE MAINE,
House of Lords,
December 21.

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Fraser expects Lonrho to attempt the obvious

In the wake of the tragic bombing of Harrods, the price of House of Fraser shares has risen 20c to within twopence of the high for the year...

certain holders of Fraser shares who might just conceivably support Mr Rowland, the master of Lonrho votes for demerging Harrods...

Hawley goes fishing in the Midlands

The energetic Mr Michael Ashcroft, chairman of Hawley Group, has again displayed imaginative, and profitable, acumen in two new deals...

Mr Ashcroft paid less than six figures for an entry into a new form of financial service business expected to grow from the restructuring taking place in the Stock Exchange...

Old Lady's loss is GEC's gain

Gordon Richardson, now Lord Richardson of Duntisbourne, would have liked another spell as Governor of the Bank of England...

Lord Richardson's age may preclude his succeeding Lord Carrington, aged 64, when the former Foreign Secretary leaves to become secretary-general of Nato next June...

GEC's board has several unusual flavours and a catholic spread of interests. Sir William Rees-Mogg, a former editor of The Times...

GrandMet's 34% profits rise disappoints market

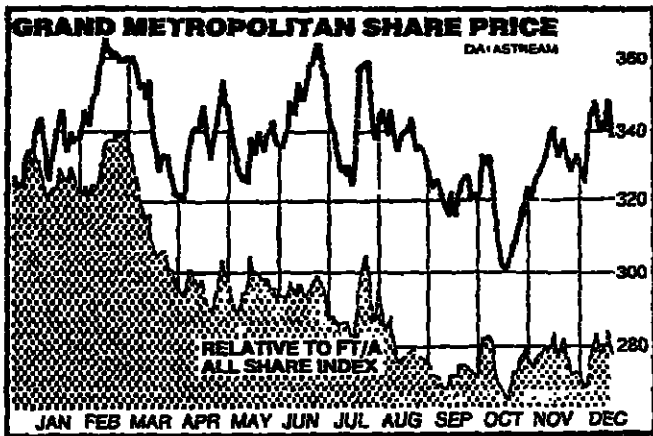
By Jeremy Warner

A strong improvement in the United States and lower interest charges helped Grand Metropolitan, the brewing, hotels and leisure group...

When the group reported a 52 per cent leap in half-year profits in May it gave a warning that it was unrealistic to expect growth at this rate to be maintained.

This, however, did not prevent analysts from floating some airy forecasts in recent weeks. As a result, the company's shares fell 5p to 388p yesterday.

The board is making a one-for-five scrip issue to bring share capital more in line with inflated profit reserves. It is also increasing the final dividend by 18 per cent to 5.75p...



acquired in 1980 when it bought the drinks distribution company, Liggett, also had a buoyant year in the United States. Watney Mann, the brewing subsidiary had a good second half with volume sales rising sharply during the hot summer...

OECD lifts shares

The FT Index reached a fresh peak for the fourth day in succession yesterday, as share prices continued to forge ahead, helped by encouraging indicators and the bright view of the British economy painted in this week's report from the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development.

The 30-share index closed 4.2 points higher at 776.2

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT Index 776.2 up 4.2 FT Gilts: 83.14 up 0.21 FT All Share: 469.84 up 1.89 Bargains: 18.943 New York: Dow Jones Industrial average (latest) 1253.86 down 1.12 Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 9708.23 down 8.42 Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 863.56 up 8.0 Amsterdam: 157.6 down 1.3 Sydney: AO Index 762.1 Frankfurt: Commerzbank Index 1034.0 up 9.1 Brussels: General Index 135.97 up 0.74 Paris: CAC Index 152.9 up 3.2 Zurich: SKA General 312.80 up 2.70

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE Sterling \$1.4275 up 50pts Index 82.3 unchanged DM 3.9525 up 0.0075 FrF 12.0650 up 0.0350 Yen 334 down 0.25 Dollar Index 130.5 up 0.4 DM 2.7675 down 0.0040 NEW YORK LATES Sterling \$1.4275 Dollar DM 2.7675 INTERNATIONAL ECU 80.571743 SDR 80.731613

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates: Bank base rates 9 Discount market loans we fixed 8% 3 month interbank 9 1/2-9% Euro-currency rates: 3 month dollar 10 1/4-10 1/2% 3 month DM 5 1/2-6 1/2% 3 month FrF 13 1/4-13 1/2% US rates: Bank prime rate 11.00 Fed funds 9 1/4 Treasury long bond 101-101 1/4 ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period November 2 to December 6, 1983 inclusive 9.350 per cent.

UK trade back in surplus

By Peter Wilson-Smith Banking Correspondent

Britain's trade with the rest of the world bounced back into the black last month as imports fell from October's record level.

The current account of the balance of payments was in surplus by £317m last month, including an estimated surplus of £210m on trade in invisibles. This compared with a £219m deficit in October and surpluses in the two previous months.

The current account has moved erratically throughout this year and although the figures were welcomed in Whitehall, officials remained cautious about reading too much into one month's figures.

Monthly figures can also be unreliable because they are often subject to big revisions. Last month the Treasury was forecasting a £500m current account surplus for the whole of this year, but earnings on invisibles have been revised upwards and the current account surplus in the first 11 months of the year is now put at £1.31 billion.

Imports were expected to fall last month after the surge in October, but although the total was down from £5,394m to £5,174m, the trend is still upwards. However, the fall in imports, combined with a rise in exports to £5,281m - the second highest figures on record - helped to push the visible trade balance from a £429m deficit to a £107m surplus.

A bigger surplus on oil trade contributed to the improvement, but the main reason was the much stronger balance of non-oil trade.

Imports are still at a higher level than during the summer, which is attributed to restocking by industry and higher spending by consumer.

Underlying imports volume is also continuing to rise with volume up by 4 per cent in the latest three months compared with the three months to the end of August.

Exports including oil, however, showed an increase of 5 per cent by volume over the same period.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

Table with columns: Current Balance, Visible Balance, Invisibles Balance. Rows for 1981, 1982, 1983 (Q1-Q4), and monthly data for 1983.

Source: Department of Trade and Industry

Allianz equals BAT bid for Eagle Star

By Andrew Cornsides

West German insurer Allianz Versicherungs yesterday matched BAT Industries' record £934m takeover bid for Eagle Star Holdings, Britain's sixth largest insurer.

Allianz made its latest bid after the City Takeover Panel set a deadline of 4.30pm on December 30 for the final bidding in the fiercely contested takeover battle.

Eagle Star shares yesterday fell on the stock market from 729p to 712p as dealers contemplated the prospect that BAT was preparing to pull out of the bidding.

Sir Denis Mountain, chairman of Eagle Star, said that although Allianz had matched BAT's offer, the Eagle board continues to believe strongly that BAT is a more appropriate parent for the group.

However, he said that the Eagle board does not propose to recommend any revision of the competing offers which are announced before the December 30 deadline.

announced before the December 30 deadline. He said the board believes that it would be appropriate to reserve any further advice to shareholders until the terms of such final offer are known.

BAT Industries declined to comment on the Allianz bid. The board indicated that it is overseeing the latest development.

However BAT joined Eagle Star in discounting the stock-market rumours that an American insurance company was about to launch a blockbuster bid for Eagle Star.

Mr Philip Evans, of Morgan Grenfell, the merchant bank advisers to Allianz, refused to rule out this possibility.

He indicated that at least five per cent of Eagle Star's shares had been traded over the past week and that only a serious bidder would risk the £60m-plus necessary to complete deals of this size.

Despite the uncertainty over the ultimate intentions of Allianz, the West German group is favourite to win control of Eagle Star.

Wedd to close New York office

By Michael Clark

Wedd Durlacher & Morand, the biggest of London's five stockjobbing firms, has decided to close its New York office and cease trading - just a few weeks after becoming the object of a \$15m (£10.6m) lawsuit from two of Wall Street's largest brokers.

Last night Mr John Robertson, senior partner at Wedd, admitted that the decision had been made purely on a trading basis. "It is a commercial decision. The venture had not really worked out as anticipated," he said.

Wedd last month received several writs from brokers Merrill Lynch and Lehman Bros. Kulan Leeb, alleging fraudulent dealing with regard to the collapse of the investment company C & R Pastor Securities. Wedd is contesting the claim.

Wedd said that although the New York office had ceased trading and both the New York Stock Exchange and Merrill Lynch had been informed, the company Wedd Durlacher Inc had not been wound up.

NEWS IN BRIEF

£7m call by Airship Industries

Airship Industries yesterday announced details of a £7m rights issue - its second cash call on shareholders in less than 10 months.

The issue is being underwritten by Bond Corporation, the company run and controlled by the flamboyant Australian entrepreneur Mr Alan Bond who recently added the American Cup to his list of successes.

Mr Andrew Millar, the chairman of Airship, which hopes to make the first commercially produced airships in Britain since the 1930s, said that without refinancing the company's achievements over the last eight years would be vulnerable. Since 1978, the company has spent more than £11m developing its product.

The Island Revenue has published draft legislation on the tax treatment of deep discount securities, whereby the discount will be treated as income accruing over the life of the stock on a compound yield basis, the treasury said.

Directors of International Paint have agreed terms that will allow the company's parent group, Courtaulds, to buy out the publicly held 12.2 per cent minority shareholding it does not already own.

Shares lose early gains

New York (AP-Dow Jones) - Stocks slowed in early trading yesterday, giving up the strong gains recorded at the start.

The Dow Jones industrial average was up about 2 1/2 points after having been up by more than four, while the transportation index was down nearly three points.

Advances held a slim 7-to-6 lead over declines and trading was active.

Mr Philip B. Erlanger, chief technical analyst for Advest Inc, said: "I am becoming more and more bullish despite some of the sentiment indicators."

There is a buying opportunity here while the market pauses to digest its gains. It should close higher.

General Electric was up 1/4 at 58 1/2; General Motors up 1/4 at 38 1/2.

WALL STREET

7 1/4%; Eastman Kodak up 1/4 to 74 1/2; International Business Machines up 1/4 at 123 1/2; Teledyne down 1/4 at 163 1/2; and Monsanto up 1/4 at 108 1/2.

Burroughs was trading at 49 1/2, up 1/4; CSX 26 1/2, down 1/4; UAL 38, unchanged; Motorola 132 1/2, up 1/4; Times-Mirror 75 1/2, down 1/4; Gulf Oil 42 1/2, up 1/4; Sanders Associates 49 1/2, up 1/4; Watkins-Johnson unchanged; and Merck 91 1/2, up 1/4.

Nigeria is seeking refinancing credits of six years, with 2 1/2 years grace, to enable existing arrears on short-term trade debt totalling between \$3 billion and \$3 billion to be brought up to date, the British Export Credits Guarantee Department said.

Pound rises on hopes of more stable market BNOOC to hold N Sea oil price

By David Young Energy Correspondent

The decision by BNOOC to keep its present pricing policy was made against considerable pressure from American companies operating in the North Sea which have seen prices on their domestic market follow the trend in the world spot market, based in Rotterdam.

Traders can now buy oil at more than \$1 a barrel below the North Sea official price and often a \$1 a barrel below the official Opec price of \$29.

BNOOC's decision will aid Opec in its attempt to stabilize the world oil market. It will also stimulate oil demand by giving consumers a long-term price structure and help to control oil output to a level which can be absorbed by industrial consumers.

The Opec agreement on prices and production quotas reached in Geneva three weeks ago was then described as "fragile". The BNOOC decision makes it more likely that Opec can keep to that agreement until its next meeting on July 20, in Geneva or Vienna.

Advertisement for Stenhouse Holdings shareholders. Title: 'To the Stenhouse Holdings shareholders THE REED STENHOUSE OFFER WILL NOT BE INCREASED'. Text: 'Reed Stenhouse has received acceptances in respect of 36.5 per cent of the issued share capital of Stenhouse Holdings. Reed Stenhouse will not increase its Offer which has been extended and will remain open for acceptance until 3.00pm on Wednesday 11th January, 1984. The Stenhouse Holdings board has failed to answer the questions raised by Reed Stenhouse. Your attention is particularly drawn to the following facts: * The Reed Stenhouse Offer is worth 142.4p per Stenhouse Holdings share... * Mr Herbert Houghton, the immediate past Chairman, has resigned from the board of Stenhouse Holdings and has independently advised shareholders to accept the Offer. * The largest independent shareholder owning 20 per cent of Stenhouse Holdings has accepted the Offer. * The Offer will unlock the discount between the Stenhouse Holdings share price and net asset value. * No alternative bidders have emerged despite an intensive international search by Stenhouse Holdings. The Offer will not be increased - accept the Reed Stenhouse Offer now and obtain the benefits of a DIRECT interest in your company's principal asset. Continuing as a Stenhouse Holdings shareholder is a most unattractive alternative.'

Trade cheer for shares

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Dec 12. Dealings end, Dec 29. Contango Day, Dec 30. Settlement Day, Jan 9.

A better-than-expected set of November trade figures, showing a return to the black, gave a boost to the equity market yesterday, which still shows few signs of running out of steam.

The FT index maintained its record-breaking run, closing at its high for the day, 4.2 up at a record 776.2, with renewed bid activity and stock shortages keeping prices on the ball.

Most of the market's business had been completed by lunch-time and for the rest of the session it was left up to the cheerful survey on the economy from the OECD and overnight strength on Wall Street to keep sentiment alive.

Gilt scores encouraging gains of up to 2% at the longer end, cheered by news from America, which pointed to an easing in the upward pressure on interest rates. On foreign exchange the pound closed 50 points up against the dollar, at \$1.4275.

Among blue chips, Bowater, the pulp and paper specialist, complex, stood out with an 11p rise to a new high of 267p as the bid rumours continued to gain momentum. Close observers

reckon somebody is trying to build up a stake prior to a bid. US support was also good for Glaxo, 13p higher at 725p, after recent weakness, and ICI, 12p at 660p. P & O Deferred also rallied after nervous selling earlier in the week on hopes the Monopolies Commission will allow the contested bid from Trafalgar House to proceed.

Profit-taking among the High Street banks made a dull picture for the sector as a whole. Barclays lost 5p at 489p, Lloyds 7p at 532.

Among the merchant banks, Klawnsen Benson continued to gain ground, rising 7p to 430p following the above-mentioned bid by broker L. Messel on behalf of unnamed Middle Eastern clients on Wednesday. They had been hoping to pick up about 10 per cent of the company, but in the event failed to pick up any shares at around the 395p level.

But there was profit-taking among the discount houses where rumours of a possible tripartite bid had depressed prices all week. Alexanders Discount lost 7p to 332p, Smith S Anbyrn, 4p to 47p and Jessel Tynbee, 2p to 66p.

Broker de Zoete & Bevan has predicted that the recovery in profits forecast by Macarthy's Pharmaceuticals is unlikely to occur and say this is now fully reflected in the group's low rating. For the present year, de Zoete is looking for a profit of £4.1m against £4m last time. The shares closed unchanged at 141p.

Tricentrol's quoted offshoot, Combined Technologies, enjoyed a spurt of 1 1/2p to 21p on a broker's buy recommendation, but Polly Peck, the biggest of Mr Asil Nadir's three public-company subsidiaries, lost a further 2 1/2p to £25.50 on further reflection of the group's annual report and

accounts, accompanied by proposals for a share split and placing to raise £5m.

In stores, Sears Holdings, the Saxe to Lilley & Skinner shoe retailer, added 2p to 83p following yesterday's article in The Times confirming the group was looking for a quote for its shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

Share of FIL, formerly Footwear Industries Investments, continued to scale new heights, rising 13p to 200p on hopes that sales of its new inhaler, which it is claimed can alleviate the common cold and hay fever, will be well received.

On the Unlisted Securities Market, shares of DBE Technology, the subject of a reverse takeover by what was left of Bell Electronics, started life at 120p and continued to rise throughout the day, to close at 140p. Shares of Bell have been

suspended since July 27, after Ferranti's decision to pay £1m for 9 per cent of Bell.

Meanwhile, Ault & Wiborg, the specialist inks concern, was briefly suspended, awaiting an announcement from the company. They later returned, 11p higher at 44p, following the terms of a minority bid from Sun Oil, which earlier this year was unable to agree on a price with the board of A & W.

Sir Monty Finiston, former chairman of BSC and now in the chair at Chemical Methods, is excited by the group's prospects. Independent trials of the group's Britiger abrasives indicate a better performance to anything currently available on the market, he says.

Full-scale production will be starting in the first quarter of the New Year. Recently, Chemical Methods and its broker, Statham Duff Stoop, which brought the group to market earlier this year, parted company under a cloud.

Laing and Cruickshank has been appointed Chemical's new broker. The shares ended the day unchanged.

RECENT ISSUES table with columns for Issue Name, Date, and Price.

BRITISH FUNDS table with columns for Fund Name, Price, and Change.

COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN table with columns for Country/Region, Price, and Change.

LOCAL AUTHORITIES table with columns for Authority Name, Price, and Change.

DOLLAR STOCKS table with columns for Stock Name, Price, and Change.

BANKS AND DISCOUNTS table with columns for Bank Name, Price, and Change.

BREWERS AND DISTILLERS table with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change.

COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL table with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change.

High Low Company table with columns for Company Name, Price, and Change.

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THE TIMES 1000 1983/84. The World's Top Companies. Full statistical details and address: UK, Europe, USA, Japan, Hong Kong, Australia, Canada, Singapore, etc.

Table of company names and prices, including sections for SHIPPING and MINES.

Table of company names and prices, including sections for FINANCIAL TRUSTS and OIL.

Table of company names and prices, including sections for PROPERTY and INVESTMENT TRUSTS.

Table of company names and prices, including sections for PLANTATIONS and MISCELLANEOUS.

Table of company names and prices, including sections for UNLISTED SECURITIES and Gold.

Sterling: Spot and Forward table with columns for currency, rate, and term.

Money Market Rates table with columns for instrument, rate, and term.

Local Authority Bonds table with columns for authority, rate, and term.

Local Authority Bonds table with columns for authority, rate, and term.

Other Markets table with columns for market, rate, and term.

Dollar Spot Rates table with columns for currency, rate, and term.

Euro-\$ Deposits table with columns for currency, rate, and term.

Gold table with columns for price and unit.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'First' and 'Shak'.

INVESTORS' NOTEBOOK

First-half profits jump to £943,000 at Smith Bros

The future of Smith Brothers, one of the two quoted stock jobbers on the stock exchange, looks secure. Certainly yesterday's interim pretax profit figures of £943,000 were well up on the £585,000 of the previous year.



Anthony Lewis: looks set for expansion in Australia

But it is not current trading or the company's healthy yield that make the shares so attractive now. It is the deal struck with N M Rothschild this month which gave the bankers a 29.9 per cent stake.

As both are considered experts in their own operations of gold bullion and gold coins - both internationally desirable commodities - it is the establishment of a jointly owned international dealing subsidiary that offers Smith Brothers so much potential beyond what they are achieving now.

The new company will extend Smith's dealing base in New York and Los Angeles while fully exploiting Rothschild's operations in the Far East. Both are expected to stick closely to the wholesale side of the business. To make the most of that Smith needed capital, and lots of it.

Its own capital base of £6m looked minuscule in relation to the giants in the industry who trade in billions - as does Smith but on a much lower margin - and the weight of the Rothschild name gives weight where previously it would not have been given.

Smith already has two-thirds of its 65 dealing staff concentrated on international securities and the Rothschild deal should provide them with all the incentive necessary to really show what they can do.

The company has been gearing up financially for such moves. Rothschild are paying £5.5m for the stake and injecting another £5m for the new company that Smith is expected to match.

The next obvious expansion area for chairman Mr Anthony Lewis's team looks likely to be Australia. That country's shares are also a Smith speciality.

Not surprisingly, the company underplays its success in saying that first-half trading was mixed and the second-half is satisfactory, but it is too early to make a forecast. The interim dividend is the same as last year, a penny. Not very generous, but the shares, at 77p, yield a good 3.6 per cent and offer a great deal of promise.

Reardon Smith Line

The Reardon Smith Line, which runs a small fleet of four bulk carriers, has been hit severely by the recession in the world shipping industry.

Reardon is suffering from the inevitable cutting of rates and margins which has resulted from the overcapacity in the industry, although the number of British ships lying idle last month fell for the fourth successive month.

In the six months to September 30, Reardon made pretax profits of £468,000 after losses of £2.76m in the same period last year.

However, the return to profits was the result of selling two vessels for £1.8m and the renegotiation of an agreement on chartered in losses which contributed £2.6m.

Reardon is likely to face a loss in the final stage as these one-off contributions are unlikely to be repeated.

The immediate trading position looks bleak and there is no immediate sign of any recovery in the trading position according to the board. However, the board said there were signs of recovery in the trading position according to the board. How-

ever, the board said there were signs of recovery in the world economy which, it is hoped, would result in an improvement in the movement of dry cargo and a resulting increase in freight rates.

Turnover at Reardon fell from £7.3m to £1.8m, while the trading losses came entirely from the bulk carrier dry cargo fleet after the sale of the two tankers.

Company borrowings fell from £8m to £5m after the sale of the vessels.

The results from Reardon back the claims made by British shippers for extra support from the Government for the industry.

The shipping industry argues that with 81 ships lying idle in the home fleet the Government should consider giving some support to shippers now. In the meantime the General Council for British shipping has given a warning that the industry must control its costs vigorously if the remaining ships are to stay in service.

The continuing problems faced by the industry have led to an assessment by leading analysts that the most attractive sector of the shipping sector is the non-shipping element of company balance sheets.

APPOINTMENTS

Chairman elect joins Guinness main board

Guinness Peat Group: Mr Albert Frost, who takes over as chairman of Guinness Peat & Co. on January 1, has been appointed to the board of the parent company, Guinness Peat Group.

Elder Dempster Lines: Mr D Sykes will retire as managing director on July 31. He will be succeeded by Mr K H Birch, who is trade director. Elder Dempster is part of Ocean Transport & Trading and Mr Birch will join the group's marine division board from January 1. Mr R P Gregory will become trade director.

Thames Television: Mr Mike Phillips, managing director of Thames Television International, becomes executive director from January 1.

Legal and General Group: Mr T J Palmer, at present general manager of Legal and General International, will in addition to his appointment as deputy group chief executive of Legal and General Group, become chief general manager of Legal and General Assurance Society on January 1. Mr E Wynne Owen, chief general manager of Legal and General Assurance Society, will be appointed chief general manager of Legal and General International on the same date. Mr J K E Bourne, managing director, Legal and General Assurance Holdings (Australia), will become general manager, Legal and General International from July 1.

Stroud Riley Drummond: The following appointments have been made in the leisure fabric division, incorporating Stroud Riley International: Mr Michael Miskell has become assistant managing director. Mr Philip Stott, production director. Mr Tony Lister, developments director and Mr David Maden, accounts director. In the worst fabric division incorporating James Drummond & Sons and J Haywood & Sons, Mr Leslie Metterick becomes operations and production director. The following appointments have been made after the recent acquisition of Longbottoms (Sowerby Bridge), which has now become part of the worsted fabric division: Mr S M Simmonds becomes group chief executive. Mr R M Stroud, group managing director. Mr B S Levi, group sales director and Mr E E Taylor, group financial director.

Why the Hongkong bankers 'have a hard time ahead'

Hongkong. (Reuters) - Problems that arose for the Hongkong banking sector this year means it faces a difficult 1984, the Commissioner for Banking and Deposit Taking Companies, Mr Colin Martin, says.

"This has been the most difficult year for bankers in the history of Hongkong and it will take several years to make a full adjustment to what will happen," he said.

He attributed the problems to the slump in the property market and uncertainty over Hongkong's political future.

The big fall in property demand and prices, heavily affected banks, which have lent heavily to the property sector over the last few years, Mr Martin said. "Many loans cannot be paid off until property is sold or leased."

Demand for new loans, particularly for capital investment, was relatively low, and unlikely to pick up until there was a political settlement between the Chinese and British Governments over the future of Hongkong, he added.

However, Mrs Martin said he did not foresee further problems of the type and gravity faced by some local banks earlier this year. In late September, the Hongkong Government acquired the Hang Lung Bank after its failure to meet its liabilities to its clearing bank.

Less than a week later, Merrill Lynch and Co and Cie Financiere de Paris et des Pays Bas (Paris) took a joint controlling stake in Sun Hung Kai and Co to ward off a potential run on its subsidiary, Sun Hung Kai Bank.

Mr Martin said most Hongkong domestic banks were now in a relatively sound position despite their minimal exposure to the large property groups.

"Foreign banks are large enough internationally to absorb any losses without being caused too much discomfort," he added. Several local subsidiaries of overseas banking groups are reported by local analysts to be among the main creditors of failed property companies.

In Tokyo, the ability of the stock market to shrug off recent bad political news and roar ahead to record highs this week points to a bullish market in the coming year, market analysts said.

The Japanese economy looks set to move to a more broadly based growth pattern on a revival in domestic demand, raising expectations of higher profits, they said.

There is liquidity available to feed the market because domestic industrial investment has not started a full revival yet, the analysts noted.

Edward Jones to raise £1.2m for expansion

By Vivien Goldsmith

Edward Jones Group, the building contractor and property developer, which acquired a medical accent in September when Dr Richard Petty, the co-founder of the International Hospitals Group, became chairman, is raising £1.225m by a rights issue.

Some of this money will go towards the purchase of two nursing homes in Southern England for £660,000 and paying £1.5 to Woodbourne Company (Jersey) for Raz Investments whose sole assets are a 15 per cent stake in IHG (International Hospitals Group) and IHG (Medical Services) respectively. The initial payment of £400,000 will be paid from the proceeds of the rights issue.

The issue is of 4,295,732 ordinary shares on the basis of two for three and 10 new ordinary shares for every £3 of loan stock at 32p per share. After the announcement the shares were down 1p at 41p.

The company is trying to mop up the 15 per cent loan stock 1996/98 by offering holders ordinary shares at an improved conversion rate - 11 ordinary for every £2 of loan stock rather than 5 ordinary for every £1 of loan stock. There is £429,573 of loan stock outstanding which, on conversion at the improved rate, would result in the creation of 2,362,652 new ordinary shares.

Edward Jones Half-year to 30.6.1983 Pretax profit £30,000 (£63,000 loss) 0.7p (loss 1.47p) Turnover £7.25 million (£1.38 million) Net interim dividend Nil (Nil) Share price 41p

Mr Nicholas Morris, the managing director, said that this was "a clean and easy way of mopping up the loan stock". He added that it would also have the effect of boosting the balance sheet.

The announcement coincided with the group's half-time results. The company made a trading loss of £8,000 on a turnover of £1.75m compared with a trading loss of £65,000 on turnover of £1.38m in the first six months last year.

The trading loss was turned into pretax profits of £30,000 by a profit of £38,000 on the sale of a supermarket in North Wales. No dividend is being paid.

The group, however, is forecasting that it might reach breakeven by the end of the year, and although that is unlikely to result in a dividend payment this year, there is the glimmer of hope that dividend will return in the next financial year.

Mr Morris said that IHG, which made profits of £1.994m in 1982, may go public in its own right.

WALL STREET

Table with columns for various stock indices and prices, including NYSE, Dow Jones, and various individual stocks like AMF Inc, Allied Corp, etc.

COMPANY NEWS IN BRIEF

Sister has exchanged contracts with a local industrial company for the sale of six acres of land at Theale, Berkshire, for £2m. Sunfire Clothing: 26 weeks to Oct 1, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 1,336 (1,259). Trading loss 78 (34). Exceptional items 16 (nil). Loss before tax 94 (34). Tax (nil). Board believes there will be a return to profitability by the year-end. James Cream: Half-year to June 30, 1983. Figures in Irish £000. Turnover 41,265 (41,653). Pretax profit 1,017 (470). Board expects second half to be better than first. Highgate and Job Group: Half-year to Sept 30, 1983. Figures in £100. Turnover 3,198 (3,191). Pretax loss 2 (63). Results confirm target for a return to profit this year. Pict Petroleum: Year to Oct 31, 1983. Figures in £000. Loss on ordinary operations, before and after tax 232 (1,604). No dividend (same). Sutcliffe, Speakman: Half-year to Sept 30, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 2,751 (2,924). Loss 124 (loss 159) after tax and minorities. No interim dividend (same). Banker Investment Trust: Year to Oct 31, 1983, compared with 18 months to Oct 31, 1982. Total revenue £3,059m (£4,033m). Total dividend 4.16p against an annualised 3.95p. One-for-one scrip issue proposed. Cronite Group: Year to Sept 30, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 10,832 (10,507). Pretax loss 1,234 (80). Turnbull Scott Holdings: Figures in £000. Turnover 8,508 (10,581). Pretax profit 140 (loss 1,171). Interim payment 3p (same). Victoria Carpet Holdings: Half-year to Sept 30, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 10,784 (8,827). Pretax profit 150 (100). Superdrug Stores: Nine months to Nov 26, 1983. Figures in £000. Turnover 72,272 (58,642). Pretax profit 4,969 (3,891). Electric and General Investment Company: Half-year to Nov 30, 1983. Gross income £1.12m (£650,000). Interim payment raised from 1.1p to 1.35p a share and board predicts maintained final of 1.75p a share.

COMMODITIES

Table with columns for LONDON COMMODITY PRICES, RUBBER, COFFEE, COCAOA, SUGAR, RUBBER, and various other commodity prices.

COMMODITIES

Table with columns for TIN HIGH-GRADE, COPPER HIGH GRADE, ALUMINIUM, and various other commodity prices.

COMMODITIES

Table with columns for RUBBER, COFFEE, COCAOA, SUGAR, RUBBER, and various other commodity prices.

YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Shake-up for Wavy Line

Mace and Wavy Line, recently merged to become the largest group of small grocers operating as a 'symbol' chain, is planning a big shake-up to meet increasing high street competition.

Two main new thrusts have emerged largely from a three-year investigation of store development at Wavy Line which has been operating totally under the umbrella of Booker McConnell whose other retailing operations include the Budegen supermarkets.

Mr Derek Abbott, hitherto chairman of Wavy Line, has just become chief executive of the merged Mace-Wavy Line operation. Mace having been 70 per cent a Booker organization with a number of other wholesalers also involved.

Part of the merged chain, mostly rather larger outlets, is to be revamped under a scheme aimed at making such outlets more competitive with the big multiple grocery chains. Others in the chain will be encouraged to emphasize the convenience store concept, with early, late and weekend opening in a style most big supermarkets do not match.

On offer are new decor, new marketing plans and other developments aimed at adding a more positive approach to retailing in the merged chain whose members now number 3,800, some of them with more than one outlet. But the biggest proportion of the members operate single shops run typically by husband and wife teams.

Although Mace-Wavy Line has the largest number of members, who are essentially franchisees operating under the symbol banner, it still lags behind Spar in share of the packaged grocery market. Spar, the other leading symbol chain, has 2.5 per cent market share against Mace-Wavy Line at 1.8 per cent. VG is number three in the symbol league with a market share of less than 1 per cent.

By Derek Harris

Abbott says: "The Trader's Opportunity Plan, TOP for short, has been 90 per cent a Wavy Line development but it has now been proved in 112 stores and will be pushed through nationally this coming year. By the end of 1984 there should be up to 500 TOP stores."

The idea is to refurbish stores, with outside fascias emphasising the name of the retailer running it and operated under a merchandising plan put together by the symbol chain's specialists.

One Essex store underwent the treatment at a cost of around £8,500 compared with the £3,000 it would have cost just to have a repaint. A Kent outlet in its first year after the TOP treatment saw turnover profit margin increase of 2 per cent.

Abbott said: "We cannot match the multiples on price. But we have to make sure that there is no more than 10 per cent difference in our TOP basket for purchases in our TOP stores compared with the multiples. In the TOP stores already operating the average sales uplift has been 16 per cent and they are more geared to higher profit margin products."

Frozen and fresh foods, delicatessen items and alcoholic drinks are important parts of the mix. Drinks are an important sales generator and an important key to drawing customers to shops. The chain has 2,200 of its outlets licensed.

Specific prices can be guaranteed within the TOP scheme allowing the chain to offer special deals to food and drink manufacturers, the concomitant of which are specially discounted prices from the makers. Until now only the big multiples have been able to make such offers to manufacturers with an end result of bringing prices down to the customer.

So far 700 of the chain's stores have been re-launched as convenience stores. Within two years the number is expected to double because this is seen as one of the strongest plies of the small retailer in meeting the competition of the supermarkets.

Further into the future Abbott believes the introduction of laser-scanning systems at check-out tills will be crucial for a smaller retailer. This is because such systems not only fine-tune systems like stock control but enable swift response to price changes by competing retailers.

While most big multiple chains are gearing up for the widespread use of the electronic computerised systems Mace-Wavy Line already has one store in Scotland operating live to establish an effective mode of operation for the smaller retailer. There are indications it could produce an overheads saving of 0.75 per cent going straight to the bottom line, according to Abbott.



MR FRIDAY Mr Abbott

Getting the prospectus right

Last week I discussed the problems of smaller companies attempting to expand and the difficulties involved in raising the finance to do it.

Some form of equity funding emerged as the most desirable way of achieving support. A major problem is an inadequate prepared business prospectus.

It is a company's principal sales tool in raising capital. They will want to see that to determine that an entrepreneur is as capable of responding effectively to opportunities as problems. Keep it under 50 pages and succinct.

The following guidelines will help. Begin with a summary of the industry, your company and its product or service. Give a market research analysis to include customers, the market size and the competition you face in it. Give an accurate appraisal of market share and don't exaggerate sales. And your view of how the market is likely to evolve.

Then go straight in to your marketing proposals. What is the strategy, pricing, sales tactics, the service and guarantee policies backing that up and what are the advertising and promotion needs.

If a manufacturer what is your current development status and the difficulties and risks involved? How can the product or service be improved and at what cost? Can business be improved by changing location - to a rate free enterprise zone, for instance? Do your facilities need upgrading? What are the future strategy and plans in this area? Is enough skilled labour available locally?

Follow that with a management breakdown: how the firm is organized, who are the key personnel and what compensation and equity stake they have. Are they directors? Is further management assistance needed? Admit your weaknesses so that they can be offset. Professional services and outside work may be necessary. It may be acquired cheaper by bringing it in-house.

Business in the Community, the organisation set up two years ago to encourage commerce and industry to become more involved in local communities, has told the Government that substantial public funding may be necessary if the number of enterprise agencies is to be expanded beyond the current level of about 142, writes Jeremy Warner.

The Government has made the development of enterprise agencies - organisations which are set up and funded by big business to encourage enterprise and business activity - into a key feature of the small firms policy being developed under David Trippier, the Department of Trade and Industry minister with special responsibility for small firms.

He has already expressed the hope that there will be up to 300 of these agencies with a national spread by the end of 1985.

But the big companies that have supported the agencies so far set up - among which England's four biggest banks figure prominently - feel there is a limit to the amount of finance they can put into future ventures.

Around a quarter of the finance for the agencies already in existence is public money provided either by local authorities or through the Department of the Environment's urban programme for reviving inner-city areas.

Business in the Community believes that the proportion of public money will have to rise substantially if many more agencies are to be established.

The national figure that has been handed to the Department of Trade and Industry to form a basis of discussion is that as much as £3m may be needed.

It is recognised both by business and government that the next 100 agencies are going to be considerably more difficult to finance than has hitherto been the case.

There are plenty of published sources of advice on financing of small businesses but far fewer on organizing marketing. A new one, called 'Marketing in the Community', an overall marketing plan, has been produced by the one-year-old New Work Trust at Bristol and published by Avon County Council. It is free. Author Michael Winwood, who is managing director of New Work Trust set up to help new businesses in the Bristol area, says too few business people consider carefully enough who or where their market is.

Establishing Your Marketing Plan from either County of Avon Publicity Department, PO Box 41, Avon House, The Haymarket, Bristol BS9 7AF or from New Work Trust, Avondale Workshops, Woodland Way, Kingswood, Bristol BS15 1QH.

Open to individuals or teams of up to four people in engineering manufacturing is the second Manufacturing Effectiveness competition sponsored by Willis Faber, insurance brokers, and organized by the Institution of Mechanical Engineers with £10,000 to be won. The Prime Minister this week sent a message of support for the contest which is for the best presentation of an improvement in manufacturing effectiveness as in the application of new technology, marketing, production, product design or use of capital resources. Details: Peter Pugh, Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 Birdcage Walk, London SW1; telephone (01) 222 7899; notification of entry by June 1 meant to be doing the same thing.

BRIEFING

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Base Lending Rates

Table with columns for ABN Bank, Barclays, BCCI, etc. and their respective lending rates.

† 7 day deposit on basis of 10,000, 100,000 or 250,000. 90p, 100,000 and over 7%.

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meant to be doing the same thing. Be particularly wary of any clause that allows a fund manager, not the investor, to take a chunk of equity, usually 15 per cent, at any time over the next five years at par. That is usually attached to the small print which gives the fund managers the exclusive right to bring the company to the stock market. That means an entrepreneur signing a blank cheque for the fund.

If the fund manager will not budget then insist that the charge is only the going rate at the time. All they do is pass you on to stockbroker and double that charge. Under no circumstances get stuck with rigid performance targets. You'll find that included with the special rights attached to the shares. One is often used to achieve that by attaching disproportionate voting rights to the shares.

An equity investment is precisely that: shared risk for a shared profit. It should not be an opportunity for some slick operator to pull the rug out from under.

Make sure that there is no element of debt in the funding. Be careful of any special rights to be attached to the shares you are offering.

Are the legal fees, surveys, market research and product evaluation really necessary given the work already done in the prospectus? If an annual fee is being charged for supervision of the capital do not get driven into paying an index-linked fee for a non-executive director

Rugby in the wars: the sin of commission that is the the omission of Davies

Tactics order of the day in game's running battle

By Gerald Davies

It was J. J. Stewart, after long and distinguished services as administrator and coach in New Zealand, who said that he had only learnt one thing for certain throughout his rugby career: that there is more than one way of playing the game.

self-righteous and rigid posture as if nothing else mattered. It is contagious. Whispers from over the border suggest that there were some misgivings, even regret, that England, in beating New Zealand, should have played a more open game.

as a whole which, if the selectors base their final decision as they must, on the performances of those teams who played against Japan, Romania and France B, there is a lack of generalship and experience.

Lacking balance

It needs a strong personality with tactical nous, preferably in on or both of the half-back positions, to bring out the best in any team. This is particularly so in view of the fact that membership of the back row is in doubt and open to debate.

Less fanciful

Others, in hectoring tones, want to pursue, in these uncertain times in Welsh rugby, something less fanciful. Pony-pool are the most successful side, so they argue, therefore the national team ought to play in a similar tight fashion.

In announcing the Welsh squad, the Welsh Rugby Union selectors, in omitting Gareth Davies, have left themselves open to criticism, and possible embarrassment, if this largely untested squad fail to deliver the goods.

It would be a shame that in pursuing a commendably adventurous approach the Welsh selectors have been blind to the qualities which Gareth Davies could well have brought to the team.



Gareth Davies: he, too, can run with the ball

Search for Willis's successor reveals four candidates

By Derek Hodgson

The proud spirit of Warwick the Kingmaker was pleased to see the embarkation of England's cricketers for Fiji, New Zealand and Pakistan at Gatwick on Thursday afternoon.

areas in which the England management abroad needs to be skilled today. Fiji is a missionary call, the first time an England team have played in those friendly isles.

tour of West Indies in 1981 when Robin Jackman was barred from Guyana and a Test match cancelled at the Bourda, if Smith were inclined to ask Lord's first and speak afterwards, it was a preliminary step towards not putting a foot wrong in a minefield of prejudices and fierce local loyalties.

Such a preponderance of influence from one county may not be bad thing. Shared experience is always a unifying bond and Willis, presumably, can count on total support from the back room whenever he finds himself in a tight corner.

A management unified before the start does make sense. Despite a fusillade of criticism from the media Smith did an excellent job as manager of the potentially explosive

Willis, as a 34-year-old fast bowler, is surely in his last year as a player yet is very much a king-maker in his own right. He has survived as captain, after losing the Ashes, because he willed himself irreplaceable as the strike bowler, because the selectors were and still are uncertain of his eventual successor and because he still, clearly, commands the loyalty and good will of his troops.

Botham controversy

Ian Botham has been told by Donald Carr, the secretary of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), that he would be taking a "ridiculously unnecessary risk" if, as seems likely, he decides only 48 hours before he is to leave with the England cricketers on their winter tour.

there is nothing in Botham's contract to prevent him playing football. TCCB spokesman, Peter Lush said yesterday: "Mr Carr spoke to Ian last night. It would be fair to say that Ian, although he has agreed to talk it over with the England cricketers on their winter tour.

Botham is needed by Scunthorpe for their matches against Hull on Boxing Day, and Preston 24 hours later. A spokesman for the club said yesterday: "We are assuming that Ian will be playing in both games. Ian has indicated he will be available. His contract for cricket does not start until next Thursday."

Botham trained with Scunthorpe yesterday. Afterwards the club issued a statement confirming that Botham was available to play. Despite the injury risk, Botham's footballing activity may have been a bonus for English cricket. By training hard with Scunthorpe for the past three months, Botham, who was accused of being overweight in Australia last winter, has shed 10lbs. He is fitter now than for several years.

England leave on their tour to Fiji, New Zealand and Pakistan on December 29. Mr Carr and the TCCB are particularly concerned about the risk of injury to Botham so close to the departure date.

Botham Insurance, sponsors of Test cricket in England, have announced that Willis's touring team will receive an award of £1,750 for each Test match victory in New Zealand and Pakistan.

Botham controversy

The nomination vice-captain, Gover, remains the heir-apparent but is no longer alone on the steps to the throne. Circumstance, and the passage of time, have given him three rivals. First is Botham, who proved, after Rose's unfortunate injury, that leadership of Somerset has rekindled his zest for cricket.

There are two more county captains in the tour party: Tavert, of Kent, and Gatling, of Middlesex. Tavert has become a fixture in the England side, a batsman who can give an innings the adhesive quality of Boycott yet who is also able to fling the bat when instructed. Gatling has still to secure his place but is a good enough player to require no extra qualification if he were to lead the team as captain.

All four of the above, two of whom will be selectors, will have to be assessed and reported upon by Willis. The captain cannot be ruled out of a final firing against West Indies at home in the summer and has been quoted only this week as saying "I'll play as long as they want me and I feel fit enough." Time and the strain of having to bowl fast up to three times a day is against him and, whatever happens in the next three months, by June the selectors' priority must be the questioning of his successor.

HOCKEY

An end to Monday's fun

By Joyce Whitehead

On Boxing Day many players join with the men in their one mixture of the year. It is fun and games for all. Then the county championship begins in earnest.

Derbyshire at the Polehill Ground at 1.45 pm. Staffordshire start the programme at Sydney Road half an hour later with a game against Northamptonshire.

The five territories hold residential-inter-county tournaments which, together with the games that have already been played, will decide the five territorial county champions to go forward to the National County Championship finals in February.

The West play at the Ladies' College grounds in Cheltenham with Avon, Devon and Somerset in the lead and all unbeaten. And Somerset meet Avon at 1.45 on the first day. Devon begin against Cornwall at 1.15 pm.

The Midlands play in Bedford with Leicestershire leading Staffordshire and Warwickshire by one point with a match in hand. Leicestershire, however, have their stiffer opposition still to come. They start the tournament by playing

at 1.45 pm. Staffordshire start the programme at Sydney Road half an hour later with a game against Northamptonshire. The East play at the Eurosports Village, Shorley, where each county will play five matches in four days. Suffolk are unbeaten at the top.

Peace talks by HA

England's leading hockey officials will hand out a New Year olive branch to their Great Britain counterparts in an attempt to patch up their differences in time for the Los Angeles Olympic Games.

The Hockey Association have invited representatives of the Great Britain men's board and team management to their next meeting in London on January 5.

At present leading player's could be asked to compete in the European Cup for England and be selected for Great Britain Olympic trials or preparation matches on the same weekend. The Hockey Association's management committee have also set up a 10-man working party, under the chairmanship of Robin Elliott, to identify the prime causes of unrest between the two bodies.

YACHTING

Britain close the gap

From John Roberson, Sydney

A very consistent performance, in difficult conditions, helped the British team to narrow the lead held by New Zealand in the Hiltachi Southern Cross Cup, yesterday.

When the corrected times had been calculated the New Zealand yacht Pacific Sundancer recorded her second win of the series, but the other yachts in her team could only manage 13th and 22nd. This poor showing has narrowed their lead to only 25 points ahead of Britain, not a difficult margin to lose in the triple points scoring Sydney to Hobart race that concludes the series.

There were three general recalls, before the fleet of 27 yachts, loaded with some of the world's best yachtsmen, got away cleanly on the first windward leg in a patchy 3 to 8 knot breeze. At the first mark, the familiar duo of Bando Bando (Hong Kong) and Shock wave (Australia) led, with the best placed British yacht Indulgence in sixth position, and the other two in tenth and eleventh places. Places changed

little for the remainder of the first round, but on the second windward leg, Panda moved into second place. When the corrected times had been calculated the New Zealand yacht Pacific Sundancer recorded her second win of the series, but the other yachts in her team could only manage 13th and 22nd. This poor showing has narrowed their lead to only 25 points ahead of Britain, not a difficult margin to lose in the triple points scoring Sydney to Hobart race that concludes the series.

This predominantly light wind series has done much to rectify the myth put about by Australian yachtsmen that they only sail in 20 knot breezes.

Decision day for Imran

Melbourne (Reuters) - The Pakistan captain, Imran Khan, may be fit for the Fourth Test against Australia starting on Monday.

New sponsorship agreed

Durban (Reuters) - South African cricket officials yesterday announced a sponsorship agreement for the series of four-day matches against the West Indian touring team.

Imran unexpectedly bowled three overs during a one-day match against south-western New South Wales on Saturday. His deputy, Zaheer Abbas, said the allrounder would decide on his fitness today.

The money will be on top of the 250,000 rand (£145,000) already pledged by another company for the six one-day matches between the West Indians and the South Africans. Joe Parnensky, president of the South African Cricket Union, said he was delighted with the new agreement, which should end argument with the West Indian players, who were unhappy with the money they were receiving from sponsorship.

© Karachi (Reuters) - Pakistan's cricket and hockey chief, Nur Khan, who has weathered several storms over team selections in the past few years, has announced he plans to retire next year. "God willing"

Decision day for Imran

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When the teams met in a one-day game at the Kingsmead ground during the first tour earlier this year the West Indian XI were bowled to victory by Stephenson, who took six wickets for nine runs on a responsive pitch.

WEST INDIAN XI (from P N Kirsten coach): S J Cook, H Fotheringham, R G Patterson, S S Mucke, G B Ross, A J Home, R V Jennings, S T Jeffries, G S Le Roux, D Hobson, H Hanley. WEST INDIAN XI (from L G Rowe coach): S F A Bachus, E Thorne, C C Stephenson, D A Murray, D R Parry, E A Moseley, S T Clarke, H L Alleyne.

A large financial table with multiple columns and rows, containing data for 'Authorized Units & Insurance Funds'. The table lists various financial instruments, their values, and other relevant details. It is organized into several sections, including 'Authorized Units & Insurance Funds' and 'Insurance Bonds and Funds'. The data is presented in a structured, tabular format with multiple columns for different categories and rows for individual items.

خذ من الاصل

FOOTBALL: ENGLAND GAIN THE WORLD CUP ITINERARY THEY WANTED

Autumn at Wembley could lead to summer in Mexico

By Stuart Jones, Football Correspondent

Wembley is appropriately to be England's gateway to Mexico and the World Cup final in 1986. They will open their campaign there next October...



Robson: happy

years ago, are likely to determine their destiny. Yet, from this distant viewpoint, September 11, 1985 stands out as perhaps the most significant date in England's calendar...

Group Three qualifying matches

- 1984 May 27: Finland v Northern Ireland September 12: Northern Ireland v Romania October 17: England v Finland November 31: Turkey v Finland November 14: Northern Ireland v Finland; Turkey v England

- May 1: Northern Ireland v Turkey; Romania v England May 22: Finland v England June 8: Finland v Romania August 28: Romania v Finland September 11: Turkey v Northern Ireland; England v Romania September 25: Finland v Turkey October 18: Romania v Northern Ireland; England v Turkey November 13: England v Northern Ireland November 14: Turkey v Romania

Leamington nearer to completing move

By Paul Newman

A P Leamington, who have to leave their ground at the end of the season, are hoping to complete their agreement next month on a move to council-owned premises. The Southern League club want to share the Edmondstone sports stadium...

Match may be held in camera

Sheffield United's New Year's Eve clash with Bolton Wanderers could be played behind closed doors without spectators if local councilors take action over a policing costs dispute...

Superleague beckons one third division club

Don Robinson, Hull City's dynamic chairman, has an individual explanation for Bob Paisley's decision to retire at the end of last season. "It was because he saw what was happening in the football world...

Top of non-league tree

By Paul Newman

The FA Cup victories this season of Telford United, Maidstone United and Worcester City over Canon League opponents has underlined the Alliance Premier League's position at the pinnacle of semi-professional football in England and Wales...

Scotland lose another fixture

Scotland schoolboy rugby has suffered a further setback, following the postponement of yesterday's match with the French Schools at Kelso. The match was cancelled because of the weather...

Yorkshire find success in extremities

scaring break by Carling ended today a superb tackle by Foster, with possession won and Cunningham once again missed the lock in front of the posts.

CYCLING: BRITISH PROFESSIONAL FINDS THE CIRCUIT AGAINST HIM

So boring for Doyle on a roll of honour

By John Wilcockson

Tony Doyle, the racing cyclist, is like a tennis player without a court. He has made of his four-hour and most successful season of indoor track racing, and yet, in between engagements in Europe, he has nowhere to train.



Doyle: painstaking route to success

There is a chance that the London six-day race will be revived next winter, but this will be on a portable track that will remain for just a week in Wembley Arena. A permanent facility is needed if this country is to produce any more Tony Doyles.

Pedalling for more prizes

The seventh Sealink international pro-am cycle race, which began in Skegness on April 9, is boosted by an overall 41 per cent increase in cash prizes. The total prize money now available for the 60 riders in 10 teams has increased from £2,456 to £3,724.

RACKETS

Joe Bugner will return to the ring next month in Denmark. If the British Boxing Board of Control lift their ban on him, Bugner will fight in Randers on a bill promoted by Roger Warren. The bout will take place on January 13, against an opponent who has yet to be named.

IN BRIEF

Bugner on brink of return. Joe Bugner will return to the ring next month in Denmark. If the British Boxing Board of Control lift their ban on him, Bugner will fight in Randers on a bill promoted by Roger Warren.

Superlative Spurling

The players of Tonbridge School produced a superlative display in the semi-final round of the H. K. Foster Cup yesterday at Queen's Club. In a gripping match worthy of a final, Adrian Spurling, the first seed, faced imminent defeat by the fourth seed, Rupert Owen-Browne, also of Tonbridge. However, Spurling found the depth of character to wrest back the initiative and won 11-15, 17-15, 15-10, 15-9.

Cup match for Telford

The West Midlands Tennis and Racquet Centre at Telford, which was opened last summer, will be the venue for Britain's Davis Cup match against Italy from February 24 to 26 next year. The centre hosted the inaugural Refuge Assurance national championships.

Table with 4 columns: Name, Position, Club, and other details. Includes names like Alison Fulton, Pamela Hamilton, and Mrs Fulton.

Table with 4 columns: Name, Position, Club, and other details. Includes names like Lyn Tatham, Michael Stevenson, and Yorkshire 18 group.

Table with 4 columns: Name, Position, Club, and other details. Includes names like Scotland 18 group, Yorkshire 18 group, and Scotland 18 group.

Table with 4 columns: Name, Position, Club, and other details. Includes names like Fraser, Telford, and Fraser has problems.

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Applying for stay is not disputing jurisdiction

Astro Exito Navigacion SA v Firso... Lord Justice Oliver... Lord Justice Slade... Lord Justice Robert Goff... The Court of Appeal held that an application by a defendant for a stay of proceedings, where there could be no question of his disputing the jurisdiction of the court, was not an application under Order 12, rule 8(1) of the Rules of the Supreme Court...

Hours of retained fireman depend on time on call

Suffolk County Council v Secretary of State for the Environment and Another... Lord Justice Woolf... The contractual minimum hours of employment of a part-time fireman were to be determined for the purpose of the Local Government Superannuation Regulations (SI 1974 No 520) by reference to the number of hours during which he was voluntarily summoned to the fire station or at a fire...

Settled tax appeal cannot be reopened

Scorer (Inspector of Taxes) v Olin Energy Systems Ltd... Lord Justice Walton... Lord Justice Kerr... Lord Justice Fox... Where an appeal against assessment to income or corporation tax had been settled by agreement under section 510 of the Income Tax Act 1952 (now section 54 of the Taxes Management Act 1970), any claim clearly raised by implication by the taxpayer in that appeal was deemed to be settled between the inland Revenue and the taxpayer...

Power to vary licence terms on renewal bid

Manchester City Council v Pryor... Lord Justice Woolf... A licensing authority had power under section 108(2) of the Greater Manchester Act 1981 (which was in the car licence provisions) to vary the terms of a licence on renewal...

Use of land includes building on it

North Warwickshire Borough Council v Secretary of State for the Environment... Lord Justice Woolf... In section 232(e) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1971, 'land' had the meaning ascribed to it by section 290 of that Act...

Opel closing the quality gap

The American Big Two, General Motors and Ford, have been trying for years to produce large luxury saloons offering real competition for Mercedes... The Opel Senator 3 OE CD... British quality at that time was markedly inferior... On the road the GTI is noticeably harsher in its ride qualities and standard 505s but is still thankfully not in the same skateboard class as some GTIs...

Vital statistics: Opel Senator 3 OE CD... Price: £13,994... Engine: 2989cc 6-cylinder... Performance: Maximum speed 127.4 mph, 0-62 mph 11.5 secs... Official consumption: Urban 19.3 mpg, 56 mpg 31 mpg and 75 mpg 24.5 mpg... Length: 15.8ft... Insurance: Group 7.

Peugeot Express

The Peugeot 505 is a well-engineered competent new saloon which does everything adequately but nothing with verve... Its styling is so unexciting that it gets lost in an even marginally busy city street... Yet I still rate it highly in the five-seater family saloon sector... Its very conservatism, so typical of Peugeot's approach, is itself attractive at a time when too many car makers are doing extravagant things to their latest models to enable them to claim that they are the fastest, slickest and least thirsty cars on the market.

Mini Beetle Races

Most of the hundred or so Mini Beetles which the little Cornish firm of strikes Racing will manufacture in 1984 will probably end up knocking paint off parked Rolls Royces and Cadillacs as the children of Middle East oil rich potentates stage their own car races around the Palace grounds... That is not to say some of the expensive 'toys' will not grace British homes but as they cannot be legally driven on public roads it will only be those with fairly extensive estates... Three versions are available, all powered by a 5-hp petrol engine equipped with automatic transmission and capable of 20 mph. Prices range from £1,750 to £2,125 and are only obtainable from Volkswagen dealers and Hamleys of London... Volkswagen has had its most successful year in Britain, passing 100,000 sales for the first time.

Car Buyer's Guide

Lancia, General, Bramley (0483) 898159, 28, High Street, Bramley, Guildford, Surrey. Listings for various car models and prices.

LANCASTER ONLY CLOSED DECEMBER 23th & 26th. Listings for various car models including Mercedes, BMW, and others.

Rolls-Royce and Bentley Authorised Dealers. JACK BARCLAY LIMITED. Listings for various car models including Silver Spirit, Silver Shadow, and Bentley.

Jaguar/Daimler, VW Audi, GOLF GTI CONVERTIBLE '83, TR7 1981, Matra Rancho. Listings for various car models and prices.

SAAB PICCADILLY, OPEL MONZA, MERCEDES FOR JANUARY 84 DELIVERY, NEW MERCEDES, 300 GDI DIESEL G-WAGON, MERCEDES BENZ 500 SE, NEW HONDA CARS, FORD GRANADA ESTATE 2.8GL, WANTED. Listings for various car models and prices.

Rolls-Royce and Bentley, SHADOW II 1978, 1948 BENTLEY, 74 SILVER SHADOW FLARED ARCH MODEL, SILVER SPIRIT 1981, SC 16, 1978 SHADOW, 1976 SHADOW, 1975 SHADOW. Listings for various car models and prices.

Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

BBC 1

6.00 Cefax AM News and Information, available on every television...

TV-am

6.25 Good Morning Britain with Nick Owen and Anne Diamond...



Polly Hemingway: Pride Of Our Alley (TV, 8.15pm)

PRIDE OF OUR ALLEY (TV, 8.15pm)

Or rather, scrapbook. Or rather, music. All three, in fact, in its own modest way, Alan Plater's...

CHOICE

stylised, the chapters from Gracie's life unfolding on the stage adjoining the dressing-room...

BBC 2

3.55 Film: The Grass Is Greener (1960) Comedy about British blue-bloods...

CHANNEL 4

5.00 The Munsters: American horror film spoof, cleverly set in an American suburbia...

Radio 4

6.00 News Briefing, 6.10 Farming Today, 6.25 Shopping Today, including 6.30, 7.30, 8.30...

Radio 3

6.55 Weather, 7.00 News, 7.05 Morning Concert, part one, 7.15 The World (for a Massique)...

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1: 105.3kHz/288m; 108.9kHz/275m; Radio 2: 69.3kHz/433m; 90.9kHz/330m; Radio 3: 121.5kHz/247m; VHF 90-92.5; Radio 4: 200kHz/160m; VHF 92-95; LBC 115.2kHz/261m; VHF 95.8; BBC Radio London 145.8kHz/206m; VHF 94.9; World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

Entertainments

Large advertisement for Courvoisier Cognac featuring the text 'The born leader' and 'COGNAC COURVOISIER'. The ad includes a large image of a Courvoisier bottle and a coat of arms. The text is arranged in a stylized, overlapping manner.

Handwritten-style text on the left side of the advertisement, including 'SUFFICIENT CARBOHYDRATE' and 'LONDON PALMIST'.

Handwritten-style text in the middle-left section of the advertisement, including 'SINGING IN THE RAIN' and 'SONG AND DANCE'.

Handwritten-style text in the middle-right section of the advertisement, including 'THE BORN LEADER' and 'COURVOISIER'.

Handwritten-style text on the right side of the advertisement, including 'THE BORN LEADER' and 'COURVOISIER'.

Handwritten-style text on the far right side of the advertisement, including 'THE BORN LEADER' and 'COURVOISIER'.

